GMA picks Guingona as Vice President

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2001 ★ 54 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 61 ₱15

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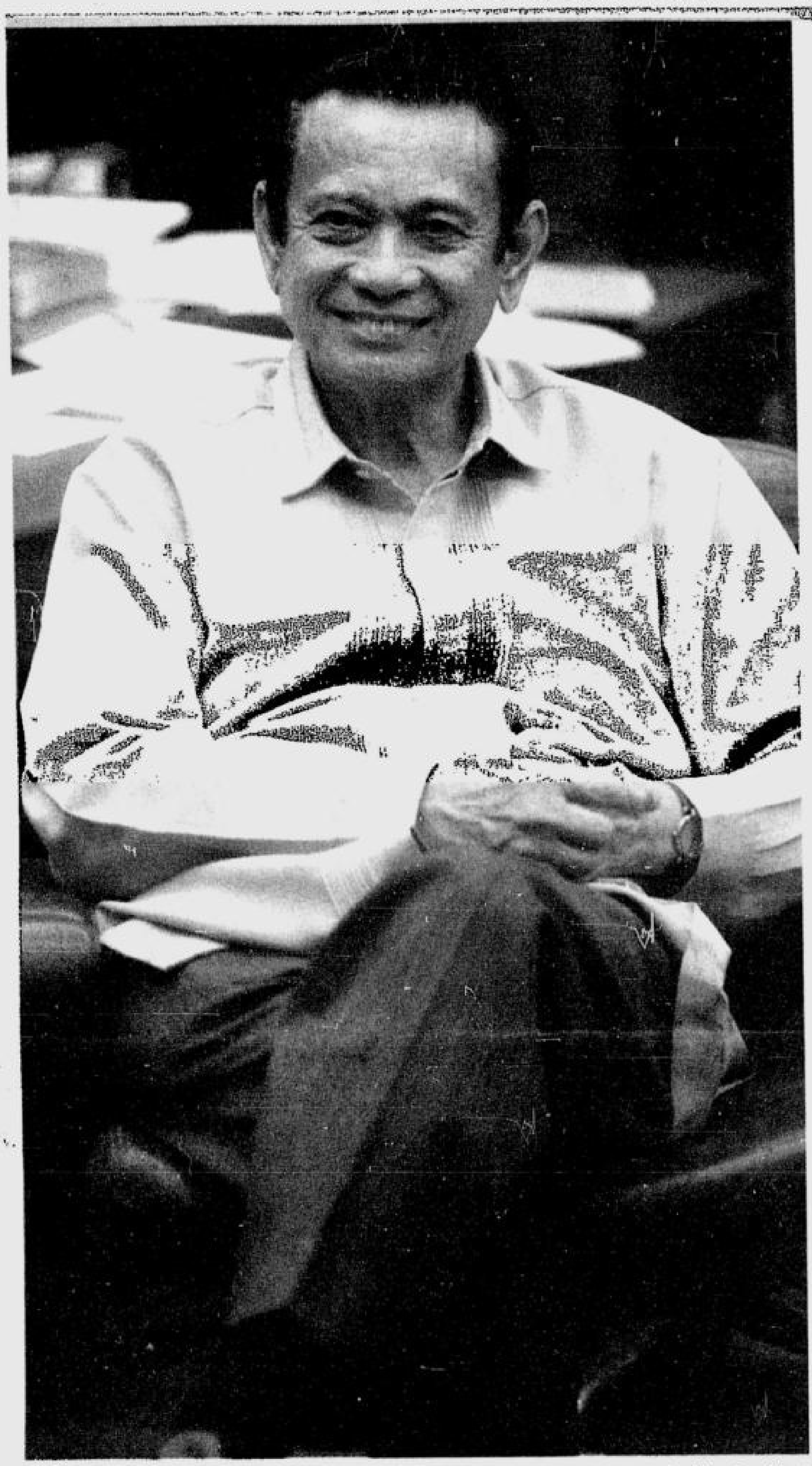
Palace to pursue raps vs Tan, other cronies

BY ARMAND NOCUM, JULIET JAVELLANA AND MARTIN MARFIL

MALACAÑANG yesterday assured the public that it was pursuing tax evasion cases against business tycoon Lucio Tan, a known crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada, notwithstanding Tan's pledge of support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

PALACE/ A6



PROMISE due Mindanao fulfilled with the nomination of Sen. Teofisto Guingona for Vice President by President Macapagal who cites that his record as a "freedom fighter" is second to none.

DENNIS SABANGAN

'Ka Popoy' shot dead inside UP

Joma: He made a lot of enemies

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA, ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ AND DAVE VERIDIANO

LABOR leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman died last night several hours after two men shot him four times in the head inside the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Lagman, 47, chair of the militant Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), was walking with his son Dante and his partner Michelle toward the Bahay ng Alumni on Balagtas Street when the gunmen attacked him at about 4:30 p.m.

He was on his way to a forum, "Alternative Lawyers for Public Interest," sponsored by the UP College of Law.

Lagman had just alighted from a green Toyota Corolla car with Plate No. WGT-329 and was about to take the stairs leading to the Bahay ng Alumni when shot.

Dr. Aurora Parong, executive director of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, said she and other participants of the forum heard four gunshots followed by shouts of "*Tulong, tulong* (Help, help)!" by a woman.

Lagman's body was carried to a vehicle and was rushed to the Philippine Heart Center.

Albay Rep. Krisel Luistro, the victim's niece, said a neuro-surgeon had to be called from St. Luke's Medical Center to perform surgery on her uncle at the Heart Center.

As of 6:50 last night, Edcel Lagman, a former Albay congressman and father of Krisel, described his younger brother's condition as very critical. He said his brother was still unconscious and was in no condition to undergo an operation, according to his doctors.

By 9 p.m., doctors declared the former head of the urban communist hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade dead.

The senior Lagman appealed to the UP police last night to find his brother's attackers.

KA POPOY/ A18

FILEMON "POPOY" LAGMAN: Coming in from the cold and going into the mainstream.

The man who called for revolt on Ayala

BY PDI RESEARCH

FILEMON "Popoy" Lagman was a maverick nationalist, veteran activist and trade union organizer.

An activist since high school, he had in the last five years ventured into organizing a legal mass movement. At the time of his death, Lagman headed the Bukluran ng Manggagawa para sa Pagbabago (BMP) since its founding in 1995. BMP is a federation of more than 200 local unions with a mass mem-

THE MAN/ A18

Edsa II story has many versions

BY CARLITO PABLO

THE DIARY of Edgardo Angara on the final hours of Joseph Ejercito Estrada which the INQUIRER published as a three-part series seems to have unlocked a flood of memories.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes will also be writing his own account of the People Power Part II phenomenon which unseated Estrada.

Reyes said that doing his own chronicle will answer questions on the events which transpired particularly those relating to the last moments of Estrada in Malacañang.

Reyes revealed his plan yesterday in response to questions based on the Angara diary whether it was true that he assured Estrada of a five-day transition period from Jan. 20 to 24 before vacating the Palace.

"What I'll do is just write my own account," Reyes said.

As events turned out, the transition period did not push through as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath as President at noon of Jan. 20 while Estrada exited Malacañang

EDSA II/A6

GMA picks Guingona, cites 'I accuse' speech

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday nominated Sen. Teofisto "Tito" Guingona for Vice President, saying this was in fulfillment of the age-old "promise" due Mindanao.

In announcing her decision in a televised address, the President said that Guingona's record as a "freedom fighter" was "second to none," that his "legislative work" found "few peers," and that his "commitment to justice" was "unsurpassed."

"Let us not forget that it was his 'I accuse' privilege speech that helped trigger the events that led to Edsa II," she said.

Ms Macapagal was referring to Guingona's speech at the Senate last Oct. 5, the first public accusation that then President Joseph Estrada had received protection money from "jueteng."

That speech paved the way for the Senate blue ribbon committee's investigation of the jueteng controversy, which lasted for almost two months before Estrada's impeachment trial began.

GMA/ A18

Second son of Mindanao in No. 2 post

TEOFISTO Guingona Jr.'s nomination for Vice President marked the first time in 40 years that the second highest official of the land would be coming from Mindanao.

In 1961, Emmanuel Pelaez of Misamis Oriental was elected to the post as running mate of Diosdado Macapagal, who also won as President.

Another son of Misamis

SECOND/ A18

High court junks Erap plea

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE SUPREME Court yesterday rejected deposed President Joseph Estrada's bid to stop Ombudsman Aniano Desierto from investigating complaints of plunder, bribery and graft against him.

The high court, however, directed Desierto, Justice Secretary Hernando B. Perez and the Office of the Solicitor General to submit on Feb. 12 their written comments on Estrada's motion for a temporary restraining order or writ of preliminary injunction.

Also ordered to file their comments were the complainants—lawyers Ramon Gonzales, Leonardo de Vera, Dennis Funa, Romeo Capulong and Ernesto B. Francisco Jr. as well as the anti-crime groups Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) and Graft Free Philippines Foundation Inc.

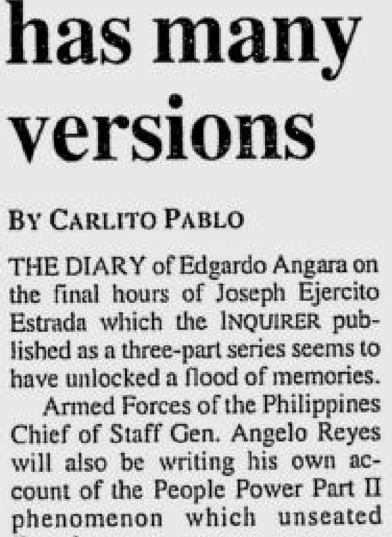
The court scheduled oral arguments on Feb. 15.

Through his lawyers Cleofe Verzola and Pacifico Agabin, Estrada asked the high tribunal on Monday to suspend the Ombudsman's investigation of the complaints, claiming he still enjoyed presidential immunity from prosecution.

The petition stressed that Estrada "never resigned (as President) . . . did not have any intention of resigning or even attempted any act amounting to resignation."

Desierto had given Estrada until Feb. 12 to reply to criminal charges of economic plunder, misuse of funds, violations of the anti-graft law, perjury, brib-

HIGH/ A6



Don Quixote (Rene) rides to Erap's aid

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND ROCKY NAZARENO

BUT who's his Sancho Panza and where's his donkey?

Describing himself as a Don Quixote tilting at windmills, former Sen. Rene Saguisag yesterday con-

DON/ A6

Moreno, Arroyo urge Buenaventura ouster

BY MARTIN MARFIL AND CLARISSA BATINO

THE HEAT is on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Two congressmen yesterday voiced suspicions that Buenaventura tipped off ousted President Joseph Estrada about Urban Bank's impending closure last year.

This allowed Estrada to withdraw a total of P143 million from Urban Bank a day before the BSP shut it down, according to Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno and Makati City Rep. Joker Arroyo.

Buenaventura, a classmate of Estrada at the Ateneo High School, denied the allegations of the two congressmen who served as House prosecutors in the Senate impeachment trial of Estrada.

"Like Erap, he (Buenaventura) has lost the moral authority to regulate the banks," Moreno said, adding he had strong reason to believe that the central bank governor violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Arroyo also said Buenaventura could have told Estrada about the imminent collapse of the bank.

"I challenge Buenaventura to declare that he had nothing to do with it (P143-million withdrawal), that he was not aware of this deposit, the purchase of the checks and the deposits of the checks," he added.

Taking up the challenge, Buenaventura said he could not have possibly known the depositors of Urban Bank, citing the "strict secrecy law on deposits."

The central bank governor said Urban Bank's chair Arsenio Bartolome III and president Teodoro Borlongan told him only on April 25 about their plan to declare a bank holiday the following day.

"Until Tuesday morning (April

MORENO/ A6

Second FRONT PAGE

WALA NANG LUSOT!

Too many bets for Edsa forces

By Juliet Javellana

THE ADMINISTRATION coalition has just too many senatorial candidates wanting to be included in its Senate ticket and to get out of the fix, it has commissioned the conduct of a popularity survey which would be the basis for determining who should be in its "Magic 12."

"There are some difficulties in the sense that we were a very thin party before but now because of the events, there are many who have decided to join," Vice President-designate Teofisto Guingona Jr. said.

Still, Guingona said, the senatorial slate of the coalition, tagged as Edsa Forces or People Power Coalition, would be determined on the basis of "contribution to the victory at Edsa."

He said the People Power Coalition includes Lakas, Promdi, Reporma, Aksyon Demokratiko, as well as the Liberal and Nacionalista parties, which have allied with the administration.

"So pursuant to the principles of Edsa II, which is a victory with many fathers, we have to give due recognition to the people. However, the party has undertaken or has caused the survey to be made," Guingona said.

He said the results of the survey and the composition of the slate would be made public today or tomorrow, having in mind that the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for those running for senator is Feb. 12.

Also yesterday, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III took his oath as member of PDP-Laban, the party of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. Osmeña used to be a member of the Liberal Party.

Mark Jimenez loses another round at SC

By Rocky Nazareno

THE SUPREME Court yesterday threw out a motion for reconsideration by fugitive Mark Jimenez, thus removing all legal obstacles to the processing of a United States request for his extradition to face various criminal charges there.

The high tribunal's ruling, which is to be released today, came even as Jimenez, a close associate of ousted President Joseph Estrada, was in the midst of negotiations with the justice department to testify on what he knew of the allegedly illegal business deals of the deposed leader.

It was not clear how the new SC ruling would affect Jimenez's status as a state witness. But Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said earlier that Jimenez's decision to testify would not affect the processing of the US request for his extradition. At most, the government would probably ask the US government to give it "more time" to secure Jimenez's deposition before pursuing the extradition case, Perez said.

According to Justice Artemio T. Panganiban, the high court decided to uphold a previous SC decision that Jimenez is not entitled to "due process of right to notice and hearing" during the evaluation stage of the extradition process. The ruling paves the way for the start of the extradition process.

Under the ruling, it will no longer be necessary for the justice department to provide Jimenez with copies of the extradition request from the US government and other relevant documents before the extradition process could begin in the lower courts.

Jimenez may look into the documents once the process begins in the courts, Panganiban said in an interview.

The Department of Justice had previously refused to provide Jimenez with these "particulars" because to do so would be tantamount to giving him notice to flee the country.

Estrada's former presidential adviser on Latin American affairs is being sought by the US government for tax evasion, wire fraud, conspiracy and illegal contributions to the presidential campaign of former US President Bill Clinton.

There is a standing warrant for his arrest issued by the Florida district court.

The court upheld its Oct. 17, 2000 ruling which actually reversed an earlier decision made on Jan. 18, 2000 that dismissed a petition filed by then Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas who had sought that the extradition process against Jimenez be allowed to continue at the Makati Regional Trial Court.

In that Oct. 17 ruling, the Court said that it could not "write a provision in the (1996 RP-US Extradition) Treaty giving private respondent that right where there is none."

"Extradition treaties provide the assurance that the punishment of crimes will not be frustrated by the frontiers of territorial sovereignty," the SC said.

The Court also stressed in the Oct. 17 decision that it is "implicit in the treaties (that there) should be an unbending commitment that the perpetrators of the crimes will not be coddled by the state."

Jimenez had filed on Nov. 29, 2000 a 53-page motion for reconsideration in which he assailed the DOJ for "railroading" the extradition petition and for allegedly making a guinea pig out of him for "state interests."

Associate Justice Renato Puno, who penned the Oct. 17 ruling, gave more weight to the interest of the public, saying that Jimenez's assertion that he be given due process "collides with important state interests, which cannot be ignored."

Gloria gives 'no' senators 'warm' welcome

By Juliet Javellana

A MEETING of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council in Malacañang paved the way for a reconciliation of sorts—or at least set the tone for a working relationship—between President Macapagal-Arroyo and three of the 11 senators who voted to suppress evidence in the impeachment trial of deposed President Estrada.

Commenting on their meeting, Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad said he, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Sen. John Osmeña were received "very warmly" by Ms Macapagal.

Tatad left the meeting full of praises for Ms Macapagal.

He quoted the President as saying to the senators, "We may not always be on the same side but no matter which side you are on, you all played an active role to bring about this transition. And now we are one."

Tatad said he was impressed by the way Ms Macapagal presided over the Ledac meeting at the Palace.

"She did very well," he said. "She conducted a short but very productive meeting. It was very business-like, there were no wasted hours."

Tatad added: "Well, she's off to a good start. She understands that she will need the support of all and as I said, whichever side we were on before the change, we all want an opportunity to help."

Tatad, now in his last term, said he pledged his support to Ms Macapagal's administration.

"I said, 'You can count on my support,' and she thanked me for it," Tatad said.

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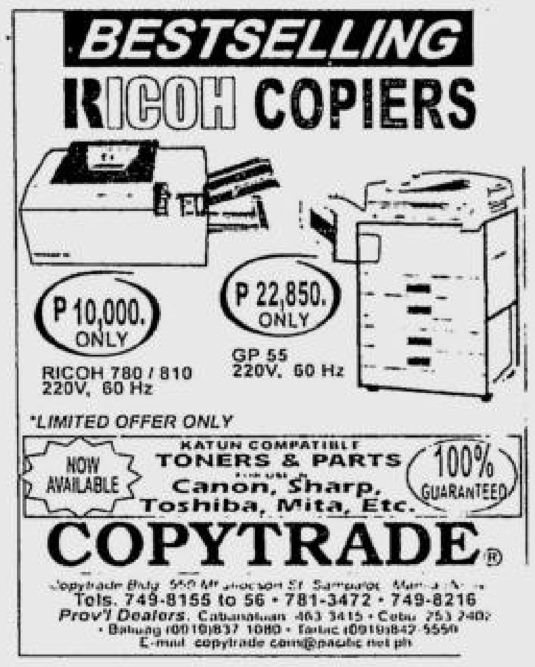
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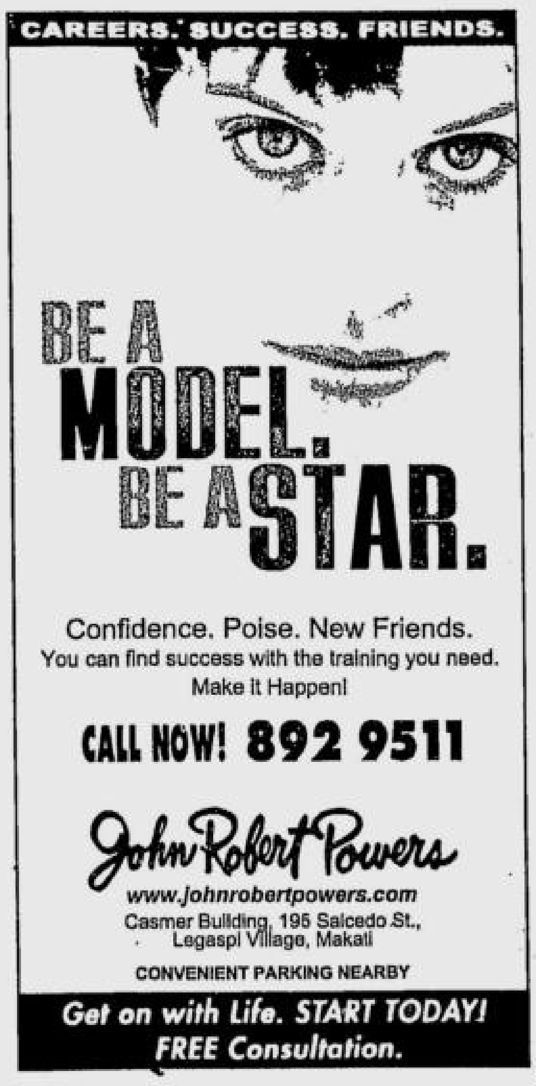
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Manila Water hikes rate by 18c

By C. A. Gaylican

THE MANILA Water Co. has been allowed to increase its water service rates by 18 centavos per cubic meter starting next month.

The Manila Water and Sewerage System Regulatory Office said it would allow the Ayala-owned water concessionaire the increase granted by the arbitration panel last year even if the issue still has to be decided by the Court of Appeals.

The MWSS Regulatory Office has questioned the MWC's petition for a rate increase in the CA.

It said it was authorizing the new water charges provided the company explains in detail how it planned to refund its customers in case it loses the legal battle.

MWSS Administrator Rex Tantiongco said the Board of Trustees had decided to permit the increase since there is no mechanism for the water concessionaires to adjust basic water charges to allow for currency fluctuations.

"Our computations show that if Manila Water wins the case in two or three years' time, instead of the 18-centavo increase, they would increase rates by P1.50 to P2 per cubic meter, factoring (in) the inflation and cost of money," Tantiongco said.

The 18-centavo increase would be in addition to the 19-centavo water rate adjustment that became effective last month. The latter was a result of the rate petition made by Manila Water and Maynilad Water Services, the other concessionaire, to recover costs incurred for higher debt payments which were aggravated by the peso depreciation last year.

The MWC currently charges a basic rate of P2.80 per cu. m. With the additional 18 centavos, the basic rate would go up to P2.98 per cubic meter, not including the environmental, miscellaneous and value-added tax charges.

The Manila Water concessionaire distributes water to Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Angono, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-jala, Morong, Pililla, Rodriguez, San Mateo, Tanay, Taytay, and parts of Marikina, Taguig, Pasig, Pateros and Quezon City.

In November, the MWSS Regulatory Office had challenged in the CA the decision of the appeals panel to grant the increase and stopped the Ayala affiliate from implementing the increase.

According to the motion filed before the CA, the Regulators had argued that the members of the appeals court had "abused their discretion without taking into due consideration the components of the appropriate discount rate (ADR)."

The ADR is the basis for computing any application by either water concessionaires for price adjustments.

The Regulatory Office cited in its petition before the CA that "a higher ADR will translate into a higher price adjustment, the effects of which will inexorably trickle down to the public in the form of higher water rates."

Manila Water sought the intervention of an appeals panel in 1998 when it was granted only a 4-centavo per cubic feet increase. It originally sought a P2.06 per cubic meter increase in its tariff rates for the period covering 1997 to 1998.

The Ayala-owned Manila Water sought the intervention of an appeals panel in 1998 when it was granted only a 4-centavo per cubic feet increase.

According to the MWSS Concession Agreement, the decision of an appeals panel is final and binding on all parties and that all parties are to waive any right to appeal its decision in any court, body or tribunal.

The appeals panel is composed of the representative of the International Chamber of Commerce, Michael Pryles; the Regulator's nominee, Jaime Laya; and Manila Water's representative, Baltazar Endriga.

Manila Water originally sought a P2.06 per cubic meter increase in tariff rates for the period covering 1997 to 1998.

The Lopez Group's Maynilad Water Services, on the other hand, asked for 74 centavos per cubic meter and got 31 centavos per cu. m. increase.

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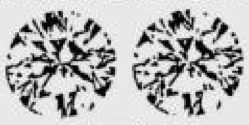

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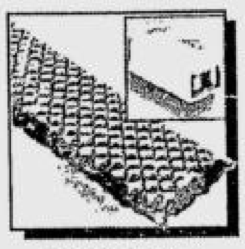

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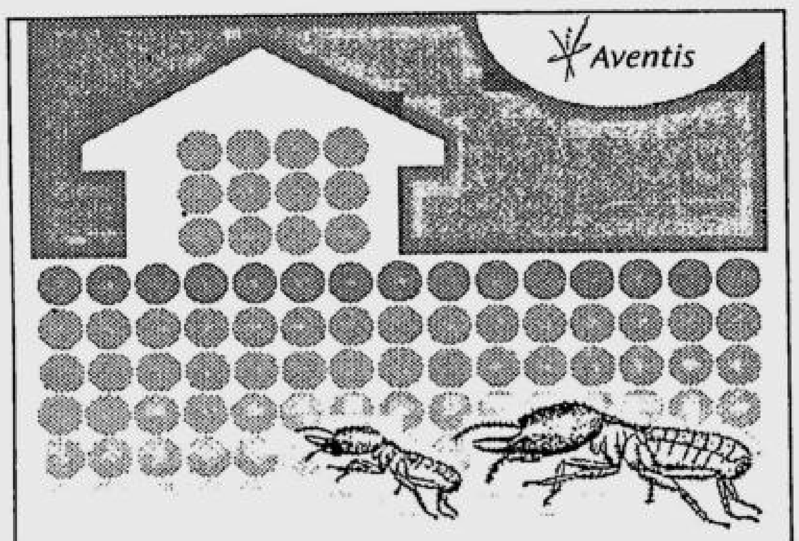

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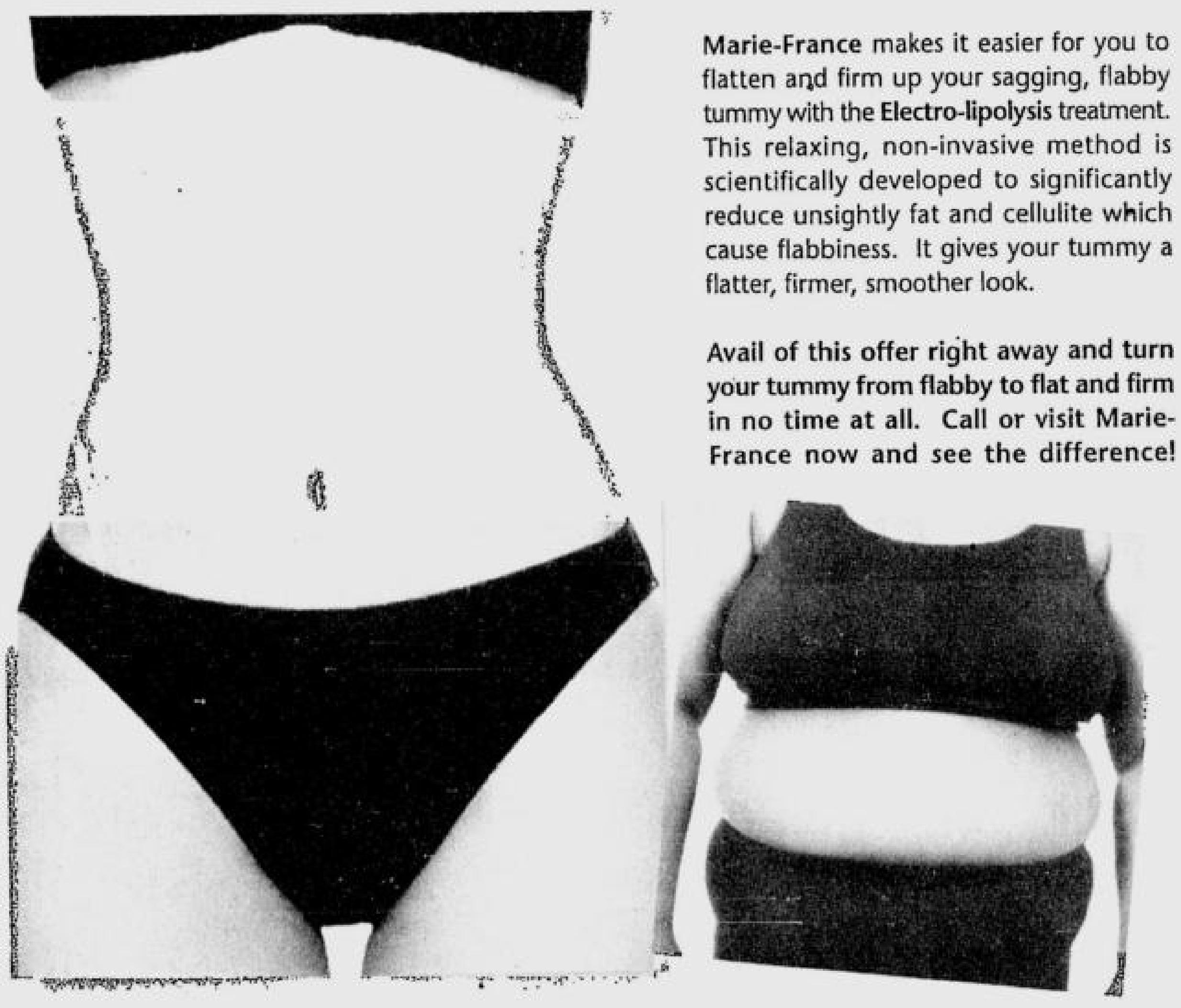

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Local bets' deadline reset for Feb. 28

By Gerald Lacuarta

THE COMMISSION on Elections has extended the deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for all local positions in the May 14 elections from Feb. 12 to Feb. 28.

But the Comelec shot down the proposal to hold special registration days on Feb. 17 and Feb. 18 for first-time voters, saying implementation of the proposal would violate the election code.

The decision to move the deadline by 16 days was reached in a special en banc meeting on Monday of the four remaining Comelec commissioners—Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain.

Javier, who was also voted acting Comelec chair in the special en banc meeting, said the new deadline covered candidates for the position of congressmen and all local elective positions except those in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The deadline for the filing of candidacies for regional, congressional and local elective positions in the ARMM was set for Monday, Feb. 12. The ARMM is made up of Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi, Lanao del Sur, and Sulu.

The extension of the deadline was sought in an urgent petition filed by five political parties, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and former Speaker Manuel Villar, who called themselves independents, and in a joint letter by Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and John Osmeña.

In their petition, Romulo, Villar and the five political parties—Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, Reporma, Liberal Party, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Aksyon Demokratiko and Promdi—said the deadline was set on Feb. 12 to give time for the printing of special ballots for an automated election system, which should be a period of 120 days before Election Day.

But since the Comelec had already scrapped a project to automate the elections, the petitioners said, the basis for setting the deadline on Feb. 12 no longer held.

Enrile and Osmeña, on the other hand, sought the moving of the deadline for the filing of candidacies for all elective positions on March 14, giving the same reason cited by the other petitioners.

The four commissioners, acting en banc, resolved to grant the petition but set the deadline on Feb. 28 and not on either of the two later dates sought by the petitioners.

The deadline for the filing of certificates of candidacy for senator is still on Monday Feb. 12.

As of yesterday, only 13 persons have so far filed candidacies for senator with the Comelec law department, the last being reelectionist Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

It was the second time that the Comelec had adjusted the deadline for the filing of candidacies. The first deadline was reset from Dec. 15 to Dec. 31 last year to Jan. 2 to Feb. 12 this year.

Javier said holding special registration days on Feb. 17 and Feb 18 would violate the Omnibus Election Code, which does not allow the registration of any voter 130 days before the elections.

"The other problem is operational. It's no longer feasible in the field," Javier said in an interview.

Sen. Raul Roco had announced that Comelec officials Tancangco and Lantion gave their commitment to hold the special registration on Feb. 17-18 for first-time voters who failed to register on or before the deadline on Dec. 27.

But Javier clarified that "there was really no commitment."

He said the Comelec could not afford to bankroll the expense for the special registration since it was down to its last P90 million with only a little more than three months before the elections.

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Briton held for bad checks

ILOILO CITY—A British man has been arrested here for allegedly passing P2.4 million in bad checks, police said yesterday.

Mike Carr, 53, was arrested at a hotel here Monday after buying a P2.2 million house and P100,000 worth of furniture and appliances for his Filipina girlfriend using the checks, they said.

Police also seized from him an Australian passport which bore a different name, they added. *AFP*

Germans turn over fugitive to French cops

FRANKFURT—German prosecutors are to deliver runaway former oil executive Alfred Sirven over to French officials Tuesday evening, the Frankfurt prosecutor's office said.

One of France's most wanted men, he has agreed to his rapid extradition to face charges in a major political corruption trial in Paris involving former foreign minister Roland Dumas and Dumas' former mistress. Sirven was arrested in the Philippines on Friday after being on the run for four years.

Both benefited from the largesse of the Elf oil company of which Sirven was deputy head.

German border police will hand him over at around 6 p.m. (1 a.m. Wednesday in Manila), spokeswoman Hildegard Becker-Toussaint said.

This is despite calls that he stay to answer German questions about bribes in the Leuna oil refinery affair.

Becker-Toussaint had told reporters that any German authority wishing to quiz Sirven could do so until the handover, if the former Elf company deputy head agreed.

Sirven agreed

But later Monday, it emerged that Sirven had decided to exercise his right not to give evidence to German investigators. A spokesman for the Frankfurt regional court, citing Sirven's lawyer, broke the news.

Sirven's extradition is being handled by the Frankfurt regional court.

A parliamentary commission probing illegal funding of the opposition Christian Democrats (CDU) had intended to quiz the former deputy head of the Elf oil company Tuesday before his extradition to France.

The Saarbruecken prosecutor's office had also said Monday it wanted to hear his evidence in a probe into the laundering of bribes believed paid by Elf for its 1992 acquisition of the Leuna oil refinery in east Germany.

Some of the money is believed to have ended in CDU coffers during the time the party was headed by Helmut Kohl, then chancellor, although Kohl has denied this.

Border arrest

Sirven, 74, was arrested by the German border police on his arrival in Frankfurt early Saturday, a day after being arrested in the Philippines, and taken into custody.

He was intercepted although the French authorities had a military plane standing by to whisk him straight on to Paris.

Before Sirven made it clear he was not talking to German investigators, the prosecutor's office in Saarbruecken in southwestern Germany had said it was "determined to take evidence from Mr. Sirven before he is extradited to France."

The statement said Sirven's evidence was sought in investigations into the German businessman Dieter Holzer, who is being probed for money-laundering in connection with possible bribes paid for Elf to buy and develop the east German Leuna oil refinery.

Members of a parliamentary committee looking into the illegal financing of the CDU believe Sirven, key figure in a web of corruption around the Elf company, could throw light on French and German press reports of bribes totaling more than 70 million marks (35 million euros, dollars) for the privatization of east German oil assets.

Five different German prosecutor's offices—those of Saarbruecken, Duesseldorf, Cologne, Munich and Naumburg—have expressed on interest in hearing Sirven, Becker-Toussaint revealed Monday. *AFP*

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Miriam pullout bad for RP image, says DFA chief

By Dona Pazzibugan

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's decision to withdraw her bid for a seat in a United Nations war crimes tribunal gives the country a bad image abroad, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Acting Foreign Secretary Lauro Baja Jr. received a two-sentence letter from the senator yesterday morning asking him to formally withdraw her candidacy to be one of the 14 judges in the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

"She said she's no longer interested to maintain her candidature in the ICTY and she asked the department to formally withdraw her candidature," Baja said.

Baja, however, said it was not that easy to withdraw her candidacy in the middle of the game. The DFA had been campaigning for her before various foreign governments since Dec. 18.

The election is set for March 18.

Negative effects

"When you withdraw, the effects could not be anything but negative. Because the next time we ask for their support they will say that once upon a time we also asked for their support only to withdraw later," said Baja.

Santiago's terse letter to Baja yesterday was a far cry from the mouthful that she said of him the other day.

In several interviews the other day, she accused Baja of "intimidating" her into dropping any plans she may have of seeking reelection. He allegedly warned her that the DFA will not campaign for her if she does.

She also said she was being punished for taking the side of former President Joseph Estrada in the Senate impeachment trial.

She was referring to Baja's letter last week where he told the senator that she has to choose between pursuing her candidacy in the ICTY or seeking reelection.

Baja said she could not be both a judge and senator since in the event that she is elected to the ICTY, she will have to live in the Dutch capital of The Hague for the duration of the trial that will take at least three months.

Baja said he did not intend to intimidate the senator neither did he believe that he could intimidate her.

"I don't answer for her interpretation (of my letter). But we had been earnest all along for her candidacy. We are lobbying for her... We had no intention to intimidate her (into not seeking reelection)," he said.

Baja also pointed out that President Macapagal-Arroyo had decided to continue support for Santiago's candidacy since she will give honor to the country should she be elected to the international court.

Keeping RP integrity

He said the President was concerned that the Philippines should keep its integrity in its international candidatures.

He further added that the DFA still campaigned for Santiago despite the various complaints against her that the Philippine embassies in The Hague and in New York—site of the UN headquarters—received from both Philippine and foreign individuals and NGOs.

He said the letter-senders protested Santiago's bid to represent the country in the ICTY.

Dichaves to be called to NBI probe of mansions

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE MAN who claimed to own the "Jose Velarde" account at the Equitable-PCI Bank has been summoned by Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation to help investigators ascertain if deposed President Joseph Estrada indeed owned several mansions reported to be used by his mistresses.

Wycoco said the NBI, in close coordination with other government agencies, was studying ways to force businessman Jaime Dichaves to go back to the country so that he could shed light on the ownership of the mansions.

At the height of the impeachment trial, Dichaves, believed to be one of Estrada's closest and most trusted friends, claimed ownership of the controversial Jose Velarde account, reported to contain as much as P1.2 billion at one time. House prosecutors believe that a portion of the account was used to purchase the mansions and other properties.

But Dichaves fled the country on Jan. 19, a day before Estrada was ousted. A former top official of the Estrada administration said Dichaves could have spirited out of the country some P300 million in cash representing proceeds from the sale of two condominium floors owned by Estrada.

Wycoco also summoned an unnamed lawyer to shed light on the ownership of the mansions, which include the infamous "Boracay mansion" in New Manila, Quezon City. Wycoco refused to divulge the identity of the lawyer, but an NBI insider said it could be lawyer Edward S. Serapio.

A report from the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) said Serapio, then presidential assistant for political affairs, was responsible for "putting together the corporate infrastructure for the land purchases."

The report further claimed that a network of cronies, lawyers and front corporations purchased nearly P1 billion worth of land and houses on Estrada's behalf since 1998.

The PCIJ report said although none of the properties were registered under Estrada's name, the deposed president or one of his wives were living or seen visiting the properties.

Wycoco said Dichaves and the lawyer would have to explain their roles in the acquisition of the mansions in at least five of the properties and also the "presidential cabin" in Tagaytay City.

Wycoco said he had already invited for questioning the contractors and architects of the mansions and other properties believed to belong to Estrada, which were allegedly obtained using funds of dubious origin.

He vowed to charge them with obstruction of justice should they refuse to cooperate in the investigation.

The contractors were earlier subpoenaed by NBI Deputy Director for Special Investigation Services Carlos Caabay, when he was still acting NBI director.

But they did not comply with the subpoenas. At the time, several personalities in the previous administration had blocked efforts to determine the ownership of the mansions.

Earlier, Wycoco said he was confident that the NBI could establish the ownership of mansions after the Senate agreed to cooperate in the investigation.

Wycoco said Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. approved on Wednesday last week a proposal to have the impeachment records, which dealt on the mansions be examined by the agency.

New agri chief vows to go after agri smugglers

By Armand Nocum

NEW Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor yesterday said the government will go after suspected smugglers of agricultural products, including rice, sugar and chicken parts.

In his first press briefing, Montemayor, a congressman representing the farming sector, said smuggling is exacting a heavy toll on local farmers.

According to him, the smuggling problem is so serious that the Macapagal Cabinet, in its meeting yesterday, opted to create a task force that will look into smuggling in the Estrada government.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo has been tasked to head the anti-smuggling body.

"We should prosecute those responsible for smuggling and take further steps to prevent further smuggling," he said.

He said initial reports show that sugar and rice smugglers in Ozamiz City and some parts of the Visayan region are even inserting shabu among the "agricultural product in container vans."

"We should really hammer on these problems and show that we can no longer allow such activities," he said.

Montemayor has included anti-smuggling programs in his 11-point agenda for agriculture, which he presented to President Macapagal yesterday.

GOODWILL GESTURE

49 political prisoners up for release

By Armand N. Nocum

EXECUTIVE Secretary Renato de Villa yesterday recommended the granting of conditional liberty to 49 political prisoners as a goodwill gesture to begin fresh peace talks with communist and Muslim insurgents.

Also recommended for release were some of the Muslims who had been arrested for the spate of bombings in Metro Manila last year.

In a memorandum to President Macapagal-Arroyo, De Villa recommended the "release through bail, recognizance or pardon" of those on a list whose cases, he said, had been reviewed by a special committee of the secretaries of national defense, justice and interior departments.

The list was made up of "persons detained or convicted of crimes committed in furtherance of their political briefs," De Villa's memorandum said.

Those recommended for release were among 75 political detainees submitted to the committee for review. The remaining cases were still being studied and results would be announced soon.

Twenty of the 49 are Muslims who were among those arrested in connection with the wave of bombings that left 22 people dead in Metro Manila in December.

The President had earlier ordered the immediate resumption of talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Muslim separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In a news briefing in Malacañang, De Villa made it clear that what he issued was not a "release document" as all the cases were in the hands of different courts.

The release will therefore depend on how fast the courts can process the cases.

He said the memorandum simply gives a "signal" to the Department of Justice to "initiate some action whereby these people will be released by the courts by bail or by recognizance."

A release by recognizance means that the courts simply turn over the political prisoners to a "responsible citizen, well known in the community and with good moral character and reputation."

These persons will then be responsible for the prisoner whom they must be able to present in court for litigation or any other purposes.

De Villa explained that the President's powers were limited to giving conditional liberty to political prisoners.

"The executive, the President especially, has no authority to overrule a court order in our country. Martial law is over, we cannot do those things anymore," he said.

The 29 who are non-Muslims are believed to be affiliated with different communist groups.

Most of the 20 Muslims are said to be part of the group of 26 arrested for the bombing of the SM Megamall and the Glorietta mall in May and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in June.

Suspected to be members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, they were charged with illegal possession of firearms, ammunition and explosives.

De Villa assured the public that it was safe to release the suspects as Police Chief Leandro Mendoza had already declared them innocent.

"The report that we have is that the chief of the PNP have endorsed their bail or release on recognizance, so they know the degree of involvement or lack of it on the part of the suspects," he said.

De Villa also said that the papers of the 26 other political prisoners are now being processed. He said the batch may either get a pardon or parole because they are either sickly or old. *With a report from AFP*

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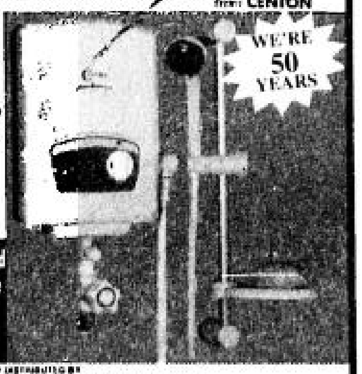

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Palace to pursue raps vs Tan, other cronies

(From page A1)

Presidential spokesperson Renato Corona gave the assurance amid calls from militant groups and legislators not to spare Tan and William Gatchalian, another Estrada crony, from prosecution just because they paid a courtesy call on Ms Macapagal on Monday.

Corona said in a radio interview that Tan's decision to dump Estrada would not result in the dropping of tax evasion charges against the beer and tobacco tycoon.

Corona also reminded Tan not to expect special treatment from Ms Macapagal just because he had his pictures taken with the President in Malacañang.

"Go ahead, have your pictures taken, but you should answer charges of tax evasion," Corona said in an interview over radio dzMM.

Tan's flagship company, Fortune Tobacco Corp., allegedly owes the government P25.27 billion in taxes.

Tan led a group of 50 Chinese-Filipino businessmen belonging to the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCI) in visiting Ms Macapagal. He is the president of the federation.

Common practice

Corona noted that it was a common practice in the country for people to have their pictures taken with the new occupants of the Palace to show that they were close with the powers-that-be.

"That doesn't work here," Corona said to allay fears that Tan might succeed in ingratiating himself with the new administration, just like what he did in the Marcos and Estrada administrations.

Bayan Muna, a party-list group, called on Ms Macapagal "to cease and desist" from entertaining backdoor talks with Tan, businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and other cronies of Estrada.

"This policy of backdoor negotiation and secret deal will lead to the betrayal of public trust," Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo said in a statement.

Ocampo also said that the President should not fall in the old trap of giving concessions to factions of the ruling elite.

"If this is the case, then we will go back to the old politics of patronage and politics of betrayal," he lamented.

The militant group Pamalakaya also opposed any deals with Estrada and his cronies.

"President Macapagal should take this matter seriously and keep her doors closed against any possible attempt from Estrada's group to score a negotiated deal through backdoor and covert channels," Pamalakaya said.

An association of activist priests asked the Macapagal administration to distance from Tan, who is reportedly offering billions of pesos to the President's supporters running in the May elections.

"Is Tan dangling his billions, tempting the present administration to look the other way with regard to his tax evasion cases?" Fr. Raul Enriquez, Gomburza spokesperson, said.

P5-billion offer

On Friday, Robert Reyes, "running priest" and Gomburza chair, disclosed in Lucena City that Tan had allegedly offered P5 billion to the election campaign of the Edsa Forces.

He said that his informant was "very reliable."

"If they accept the money, I will become their enemy," said the priest from the UP Diliman parish who figured prominently in the protest actions that led to the ouster of Estrada.

Corona dispelled talks of any deals between the new administration and Tan.

To avoid such speculations, he said Ms Macapagal called in the press to cover the meeting between the President, Tan and members of the FFCCCI.

"Our countrymen have seen that there were no secret talks or private whispers. Everything was done in public. People cannot conclude that there was any deal because they saw everything, the reporters were there," he said of the short meeting between the President and the Chinese-Filipino businessmen.

Jaworski for reconciliation

Sen. Robert Jaworski, who had tried to go to the Edsa Shrine after suppressing evidence against Estrada in the impeachment trial, said it was time for reconciliation.

"Without the support of these business groups, I don't think this country will go anywhere," he said.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he was not surprised by the appearance of Tan and Gatchalian in Malacañang three weeks after Estrada was ousted.

"That is a normal phenomenon in Philippine politics," Pimentel said.

He warned Ms Macapagal last week that some people who benefited during the Estrada presidency would be making a beeline to the Palace.

Pimentel said these Estrada cronies were out not to get government positions but contracts.

But he said Tan and Gatchalian should not be spared from prosecution just because they paid homage to Ms Macapagal.

"The rule of law must be upheld. The law should be applied to friends and foes alike," Pimentel said.

Gatchalian's Wellex Group was the beneficiary of a P500-million loan from Estrada's Jose Velarde account with Equitable PCI Bank.

Hours before he was named Vice President, Senate Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona Jr., head of the ruling Lakas party, said he saw nothing wrong with Tan and Gatchalian's visit to Malacañang.

He said Tan and Gatchalian visited the President as members of the federation.

"The fact that this federation went there to express support is by itself OK. There's nothing wrong with that. It's just like the Makati Business Club expressing support," Guingona said.

He said it was up to the Department of Justice to decide on what to do with Tan and Gatchalian.

Cronies of Estrada are not considered priority witnesses that private prosecutors intend to present when they try him for various criminal offenses, according to Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo.

Arroyo said the private lawyers made this known during their dialogue with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on Monday.

The congressman disclosed that prosecutors had already ruled out Charlie "Atong" Ang as a witness, believing that he is equally guilty as Estrada.

"Under the law, there is a principle that you can use as a state witness someone who is accused if he is the least guilty (in a conspiracy). Atong Ang does not qualify," Arroyo said.

Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson alleged that Ang personally supervised the withdrawal of P130 million in tobacco taxes demanded by Estrada from the Equitable PCI Bank branch on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City.

Arroyo also said "there are indications" that Yolanda Ricaforte, who allegedly audited the "jueteng" collections for Estrada, was also interested in testifying against her former boss. ***With reports from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Cory advises Erap: The people have spoken

By Christine Herrera

"HE can insist all he wants. But if he cares for the country, he should just accept the fact that he is no longer president. The people have spoken and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is now the leader of the land."

This was the unsolicited advice directed yesterday by former President Corazon Aquino to deposed President Joseph Estrada, who had insisted that he was still "the sitting President" and that he was immune from suit.

Emerging from a two-hour prayer-visit at the Pink Sisters' convent in Tagaytay City, Aquino reminded Estrada that the 1973 Constitution that he was invoking had been superseded by the 1987 Constitution.

Estrada had earlier asked the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order that would stop the Ombudsman from investigating the plunder cases filed against him.

He invoked the presidential immunity contained in the 1973 Constitution.

But Aquino said there was no use in Estrada's saying that he was still President because his insistence "doesn't help at all."

She said Estrada blew the chance given to him last October when she advised him that if he could not discharge his duties, he should take a leave of absence and then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo could serve as acting President.

"Now, it's moot and academic. The people have spoken. He was ousted through People Power II," Aquino said.

"After his ouster, I hope the investors' confidence is back and the value of the peso has stabilized," she said.

Aquino recalled the case of the late deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who, even in his exile in Hawaii, kept on insisting that he was still President."

Marcos was toppled by the 1986 civilian-backed uprising on Edsa that installed Aquino to the presidency.

Aquino said that she also favored the criminal prosecution of Estrada, and that she had always called for "reconciliation based on justice."

She urged the public to support the President, saying Ms Macapagal "needs all of our help to get our country going in order to revive the economy."

High court junks Erap bid for a TRO

(From page A1)

ery and possession of unexplained wealth.

4 petitions dismissed

The Supreme Court on Tuesday also dismissed for lack of merit four petitions by Estrada's allies and opponents seeking a clarification on Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption of the presidency at the height of Edsa People Power II.

Three petitions filed by the Movement for National Security Advancement, Eduardo B. Inlayo, and the Concerned Citizens for Effective and Responsible Government Inc. asked the court to declare Ms Macapagal as the country's "true" President.

The fourth petition filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano wanted Ms Macapagal declared acting President.

The court said none of the petitioners would be directly affected by a ruling and therefore had no legal standing to request one.

The tribunal said the four petitioners were mere "kibitzers . . . and although well-meaning, the petitioners have no legal standing."

The high court, however, is expected to entertain the petition filed by lawyer Rene Saguisag in behalf of Estrada.

The landmark suit asked the court to declare Estrada the "lawful and incumbent" President and Ms Macapagal as "acting" President.

Desierto

Amid the flurry of petitions in the Supreme Court, Desierto urged Estrada to "face the music" and answer the charges against him.

"The Ombudsman investigation is on course and it cannot be derailed by any such move on the part of the respondent," he said.

"I'm giving him until Feb. 12 to submit his counter-affidavit and any controverting evidence. Otherwise the charges would be deemed submitted for resolution," Desierto added.

If Estrada were to file a formal defense, the complainants would have five days to counter, Desierto said.

After reviewing the evidence, the Ombudsman may decide to file the case in the Sandiganbayan that may then issue an arrest warrant against Estrada.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines yesterday urged Desierto to speed up its investigation of the cases against Estrada.

"We are praying for expediency so that justice would be served immediately," Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP media director, told the INQUIRER.

But Desierjo said there was no need to rush the filing of the cases.

Desierto said a special panel led by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio would need 30 days to arrive at a "near-perfect information" to be filed with the Sandiganbayan.

"We will avoid the weaknesses of the impeachment complaint filed with the House of Representatives by incorporating in the information (complaint sheet) the details dealing on the issue of materiality and relevancy," he said.

"We have to make sure that no legal hitches will be encountered," he added.

Desierto said his office must observe the legal process, including Estrada's right to answer the charges.

"We must always remember that the new administration is a constitutional government. It is not a revolutionary one, thus the need to follow constitutional processes," he added.

No jurisdiction

In a 19-page petition, Estrada questioned Desierto's jurisdiction over the cases, saying his "executive immunity from suit is absolute" as he "is merely on a leave of absence from the Office of the President."

But Desierto pointed out that "there's now an incumbent President whose oath of office had been administered by the Supreme Court through Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in the presence of Associate Justices, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House."

He also noted that "the whole civilian authority was also there, including the Armed Forces chief of staff and the defense secretary."

Private prosecutors have said that Estrada hid P10-P15 billion in 15 accounts in 15 banks under at least six aliases.

Massive anti-Estrada protests followed an aborted Senate impeachment trial in which Estrada faced charges of corruption, bribery, betrayal of public trust and violation of the Constitution.

Nationwide protests were triggered by a decision by the Senate court not to open an envelope containing bank documents that prosecutors said would show Estrada kept P3.3 billion in a secret account at Equitable PCI Bank. ***With reports from Norman Bordadora, AP and AFP***

Moreno, Arroyo urge Buenaventura ouster

(From page A1)

25), we were hoping Urban Bank would draw on a P1.3-billion assistance from PDIC (Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.). I was not aware they were going to close until they told me," Buenaventura said.

Ever since Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over the presidency from Estrada on Jan. 20, Buenaventura has been under pressure from various groups to resign.

But Buenaventura, who took over as BSP governor after Estrada became President in 1998, said he would not resign. He is guaranteed a six-year term.

Moreno and Arroyo said Estrada withdrew a total of P143 million through one of his alleged numbered accounts—858—that once contained about P600 million.

Moreno said his sources, apparently from the banking industry, furnished him documents pertaining to two managers' checks—in the amounts of P107,191,780 and P36,572,315—issued by the Urban Bank Greenhills office on April 24, 2000.

Estrada, according to Moreno, issued a letter of authority—signed as "858"—to the Urban Bank branch manager asking him to issue the two managers' checks to be paid to cash.

Moreno said the checks were issued on the afternoon of April 24, a Monday after the Easter holidays.

He said the P107-million check was deposited with Metrobank branch on Ortigas Avenue on the same day.

Moreno said that talk in banking circles was that the BSP forced Urban Bank to close so it would be placed under receivership and subsequently sold to another bank suspected to be owned by Estrada.

Buenaventura, however, said he or the BSP had no access to the records of Urban Bank.

"The relationship is between the bank and the depositor," he said.

Bartolome and Borlongan are supporters of former President Fidel Ramos who served as chair emeritus of Urban Bank.

But Urban Bank's collapse was believed caused by a series of pretermination from its sister firm Urbancorp Investment Inc.

JV Ejercito, son of Estrada with Guia Gomez, was reportedly one of the directors of Urbancorp Investment Inc.

Urban Bank reportedly helped Urbancorp service withdrawals by buying receivables of the investment house that later turned out to be "junk" assets.

Don Quixote . . .

(From page A1)

firmed that he was lawyering for free for ousted President Joseph Estrada in questioning the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency before the Supreme Court.

Saguisag filed a petition asking the tribunal to confirm his new client as the "lawful and incumbent President . . . temporarily unable to discharge the duties of his office."

He also asked the tribunal to declare Ms Macapagal "to have taken her oath as, and to be holding the office of, the President only in an acting capacity pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution."

He warned that a lingering "perception of instability" would undermine the 18-day-old Macapagal administration—which he described as an "unstable revolutionary government"—unless the issue was resolved.

Saguisag said over radio station dzMM that he arrived at the decision to take on Estrada's case after deep soul-searching at the Pink Sisters' convent in Quezon City on Sunday.

Ironically, he made the decision also after receiving counsel from former President Corazon Aquino, one of the pillars of the broad alliance that called for Estrada's resignation, who had accompanied him to the convent.

"I will handle the case on the condition laid down by a newly married daughter that it would be pro bono, but a son still hopes I will charge enough to get the (air-conditioning unit) in his rinky-dink car repaired," he said in a statement.

'Underdog'

Saguisag told dzMM that in coming to Estrada's aid, he was taking up the case of an "underdog."

"We Don Quixotes are back . . . So what else is new?" said the former senator who had defended such personalities as convicted rapist Antonio Sanchez, a former mayor of Calauan, Laguna, and Richard Gordon, whom Estrada ordered removed in 1998 from the top post of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Saguisag said it would be almost impossible for the Supreme Court to "admit that it erred."

He claimed that this was mainly because the tribunal was now under pressure from the Edsa II forces, whom he described as the "new ruling class who narcissistically calls itself 'civil society.'"

"So there is this implied blackmail on the Supreme Court," Saguisag said, claiming that the justices were virtually under threat of being the target of protests in the streets and pickets in front of their homes "should they make the mistake of declaring President Estrada's exit unconstitutional."

Nevertheless, Saguisag hinted at the need for Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., who administered the oath of office to Ms Macapagal last Jan. 20, to inhibit himself from the case.

"They say that when you file a case there's always a risk of winning. But as a practical matter, the chance that our Supreme Court would admit that it erred borders perhaps on fantasy," Saguisag said.

"But somebody has to do it. Otherwise, the perceived instability will not go away," he said.

Only legitimacy

Estrada had earlier said no lawyer wanted to take up his defense regarding the criminal cases filed at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Not that Saguisag's windmill act would cover those cases. He said his free legal services to "President Erap" would be limited to the issue of the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency.

He also made it clear that he personally disapproved of Estrada's reinstatement in Malacañang, saying "there won't be a day of peace" if that happened because "many powerful forces have already been antagonized."

"In our petition, President Erap made a commitment that in case he wins, he will analyze the situation if he can return (as President)—and I'm against it," Saguisag declared.

He added: "Let it he made of record: I am totally against an Erap restoration, though he might not like it, or some of his supporters might not like it."

Still over dzMM, Saguisag engaged in a bit of namedropping to boost his case.

He said former Sen. Arturo Tolentino, a noted constitutionalist, was "very concerned about what happened (at Edsa)."

He also said the legal luminaries whom he had consulted were of the opinion that what happened last Jan. 20 smacked of a "banana republic."

"I have enough experience working with people like (the late former senators and anti-Marcos leaders) *Ka* Pepe Diokno and Lorenzo Tañada," Saguisag said, adding:

"They always told me to keep bouncing back (*bangon nang bangon*), and in time people may realize what you are trying to do.

"Have a deposition for history, make the other side doubt its moral premises. And only time will tell whether Saguisag is right or wrong."

'Supreme sacrifice'

In his petition, Saguisag said that should the high court confirm his client as the lawful and incumbent President, Estrada would "consider making the supreme sacrifice in the national interest, including giving way, if need be, to his constitutional successor, but only in the manner provided and authorized by law, so that the healing can begin."

He said Ms Macapagal had been sworn in as President only in an acting capacity.

He insisted that there was neither a vacancy in the presidency nor a resignation from Estrada that would have allowed Ms Macapagal to assume the top post.

He pointed out that Estrada merely left Malacañang on Jan. 20, "under threat of mayhem."

"What is the value of a 'resignation' that is ambiguous and extracted by 'civil society' uncivilly threatening to lynch an official?" Saguisag said.

He also questioned the existence of the Jan. 20 letter purportedly written by Ms Macapagal to the Supreme Court and that supposedly contained an urgent request to be sworn in as President.

Edsa II story has many versions

(From page A1)

at about 2:30 p.m.

"Soon," Reyes said when asked when the public should expect his chronicle.

Another version

But even before Reyes announced his plan to write an account, his version of the events had been placed under a cloud by another group in the military which had claimed it was they who worked for the defection of the AFP.

This group is composed of retired generals led by former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat and active officers led by Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa.

According to them, Reyes and company defected only in the last minute after realizing that they no longer had any control over the military. Certain units within the Army, Air Force, the Marines and the Philippine National Police would have withdrawn their support.

Espinosa said that contingents from the AFP's Northern and Southern Luzon commands were poised to take action had the military top brass continued with their non-interventionist stance in the political process.

Espinosa's group was supposed to march on Edsa on Saturday, Jan. 20, when the crowd at the Edsa Shrine was expected to swell further. But the Reyes group moved on Edsa on Friday, Jan.19. Espinosa claimed, Reyes had learned of their plan and preempted him and his men.

The defection of Reyes, then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and the entire AFP top brass in the afternoon of Jan. 19 dealt the fatal blow to the Estrada administration.

'More factual'

In Tagaytay, former President Cory Aquino appeared pleased that Angara is not alone in keeping a record of the events of the last hours of the Estrada presidency to make the story "more factual."

"Well, it's good that he (Angara) kept a record of what transpired and I understand there were also others who were there and who also have their own reports," Ms Aquino told the INQUIRER when sought to comment on Angara's journals.

Ms Aquino was referring to the panel of negotiators from the Macapagal camp, who went to Malacañang to discuss the exit of Mr. Estrada.

The panel from the United Opposition was led by now Executive Secretary Renato de Villa, now Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo and now Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who went to Malacañang to serve Mr. Estrada a 6 a.m. deadline on Jan. 19.

'Omissions'

Angara's journals chronicled the collapse in the negotiations between the United Opposition and the Estrada camp, during the last two days of deposed President Estrada at the Palace.

Ms Aquino, who was in Tagaytay at the invitation of the Pink Sisters who wanted an update on People Power II, said some of Angara's "recollections" must have been accurate but that other points had been "disputed."

She was referring to the disclosure of De Villa that there were important negotiating points between the two sides that Angara failed to mention.

One important point was that the Estrada camp wanted a letter from Ms Macapagal commending Estrada for stepping down. But then Angara did mention this as one of Estrada's conditions for resigning in the third and last part of his diary. De Villa commented on this "omission" after only the second part of the Angara diary was published in the INQUIRER.

De Villa also said nothing came of the negotiations because Angara's side did not act on the United Opposition's demand, which was to give them Mr. Estrada's signed resignation letter.

Not piecemeal

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga said that Reyes felt it would be inappropriate to give piecemeal reactions to questions arising from the publication of Angara's diary as printed in the INQUIRER.

The two generals, Reyes and Espinosa, after their claims and counter-claims, made a show of embracing each other before the cameras last week, saying the credit belongs to the people.

A few days before his defection, Reyes' tour of duty as AFP chief was extended by Estrada to 2002. Reyes was due to retire in March this year.

According to some accounts, Estrada reportedly raised this issue to Reyes upon learning that the military chief had deserted him.

Let Reyes himself tell you when he makes his own diary public. ***With a report from Christine Herrera***

SEEMINGLY SERENE EDWIN BACASMAS
With the lush green of its foothills in the foreground and clouds covering its simmering mouth, Mayon Volcano is a picture of serenity from a vantage point in Mignon Hill in Legazpi City. Volcanologists continue to watch the volcano for signs of eruption, which they say could come anytime soon.

Loi renews passport despite 'hold' order

By Dona Pazzibugan

FORMER first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito yesterday renewed her regular passport despite the hold departure order against her and her husband, ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Sources at the Department of Foreign Affairs said Mrs. Ejercito will likely get her new passport today since the department has no ground to turn down her application.

Mrs. Ejercito asked an unidentified male aide to file her application for passport renewal before the DFA "courtesy lane" yesterday afternoon.

She did not appear personally.

The DFA courtesy lane provides an overnight passport processing for its personnel and their immediate families as well as prominent public personalities.

Ordinarily the processing of passport applications takes a week.

Sources said Mrs. Ejercito did not indicate her country of destination in her passport application.

The former first couple, their eldest son Jinggoy and 21 others are barred from leaving the country in view of the plunder and bribery charges filed against them before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Estrada meanwhile has so far not applied for passport renewal.

Estrada and Mrs. Ejercito do not have valid regular passports since these have expired in 1999.

They did not renew their passports since they travel using diplomatic passports.

Estrada and Mrs. Ejercito are still entitled to use diplomatic passports, but they have to ask DFA officials first to revalidate their diplomatic passports every time they go abroad.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto gave Estrada and the rest of his co-accused until next week to answer the charges of bribery, plunder and corruption charges against them before he decides whether to file the cases before the Sandiganbayan.

China protests boarding of 4 fishing vessels

BEIJING—China yesterday said it had made representations to Manila over the recent boarding of four of its fishing boats by the Philippine military near a disputed South China Sea shoal.

"The Chinese side has made solemn representations with the Philippine side about the illegal actions by the Philippine side," foreign ministry spokesperson Sun Yuxi said.

We are "asking the Philippine side to effectively respect the territorial sovereignty of China and strictly observe the consensus reached between the two sides on safeguarding regional stability in the South China Sea," he said.

The Philippine Navy recently boarded the Chinese fishing vessels near the disputed Scarborough Shoal and ordered the fishermen to leave the area.

However, no arrests were made in the latest confrontation over the shoal, which is claimed by both countries.

Philippine officials said last week that the vessels left the area after a two-week standoff that began on Jan. 15.

The handling of the confrontation differed from earlier standoffs, including a dispute last May, which resulted in the shooting to death of a Chinese fishing boat captain, and the arrests of seven fishermen.

Scarborough Shoal is located about 135 nautical miles off the former US naval base of Subic Bay, northwest of Manila.

The Philippines maintains the shoal is within its 200-mile exclusive economic zone and owns the natural resources.

China and the Philippines are also rival claimants to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Manila has viewed all Chinese vessels on disputed areas with suspicion after Beijing in the mid-1990s erected permanent structures on Mischief Reef, an outcrop in the Spratlys it also claims.

This latest incident has raised suspicions in Manila that China could be attempting something similar on Scarborough Shoal.

China claims the whole of the South China Sea, including the Spratly Islands southwest of Scarborough, which are also claimed in whole or in part by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines. *AFP*

Pagadian police chief gunned down

PAGADIAN CITY—Unidentified gunmen assassinated a police colonel in front of his wife here yesterday in a suspected family feud.

Supt. Mitumadum Enca died instantly after he was shot in the head at close range by two armed men while a third acted as a lookout. They fled into a crowded market after the attack, police said.

Relatives of Enca told police that a family of a prominent Muslim leader whom he had been accused of killing in Manila in 1993 may have ordered his murder in retaliation.

Enca was jailed for two months for alleged involvement in the murder of former town mayor Sultan Naga Dimaporo but was freed after a court acquitted him.

Police said they were looking into that angle but said they were not ruling out other possibilities. *AFP*

Ponferrada, 89

DOMINGO Astorga Ponferrada, the first mayor of the municipality of Tunga in Leyte province, died of a cerebral hemorrhage on Monday, Feb. 5, at the St. Paul's Hospital in Tacloban City. He was 89.

Ponferrada had a varied career as a businessman, educator, public official and civic leader. He served as director for 16 years of the Leyte Institute of Tunga, the town's private high school.

In the 1940s, he led the movement for the establishment of the town of Tunga, and became its first mayor when it became a municipality by executive order in 1949. He was reelected for a second term in 1951 and served for another five years. Since then, Ponferrada had been an official and unofficial adviser to succeeding municipal mayors.

Ponferrada was married to Elena V. Peñaranda who passed away in 1995. He is survived by five children and seven grandchildren.

His remains lie at the family residence in Tunga. Interment in the town cemetery has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 10, after the 10 a.m. Mass.

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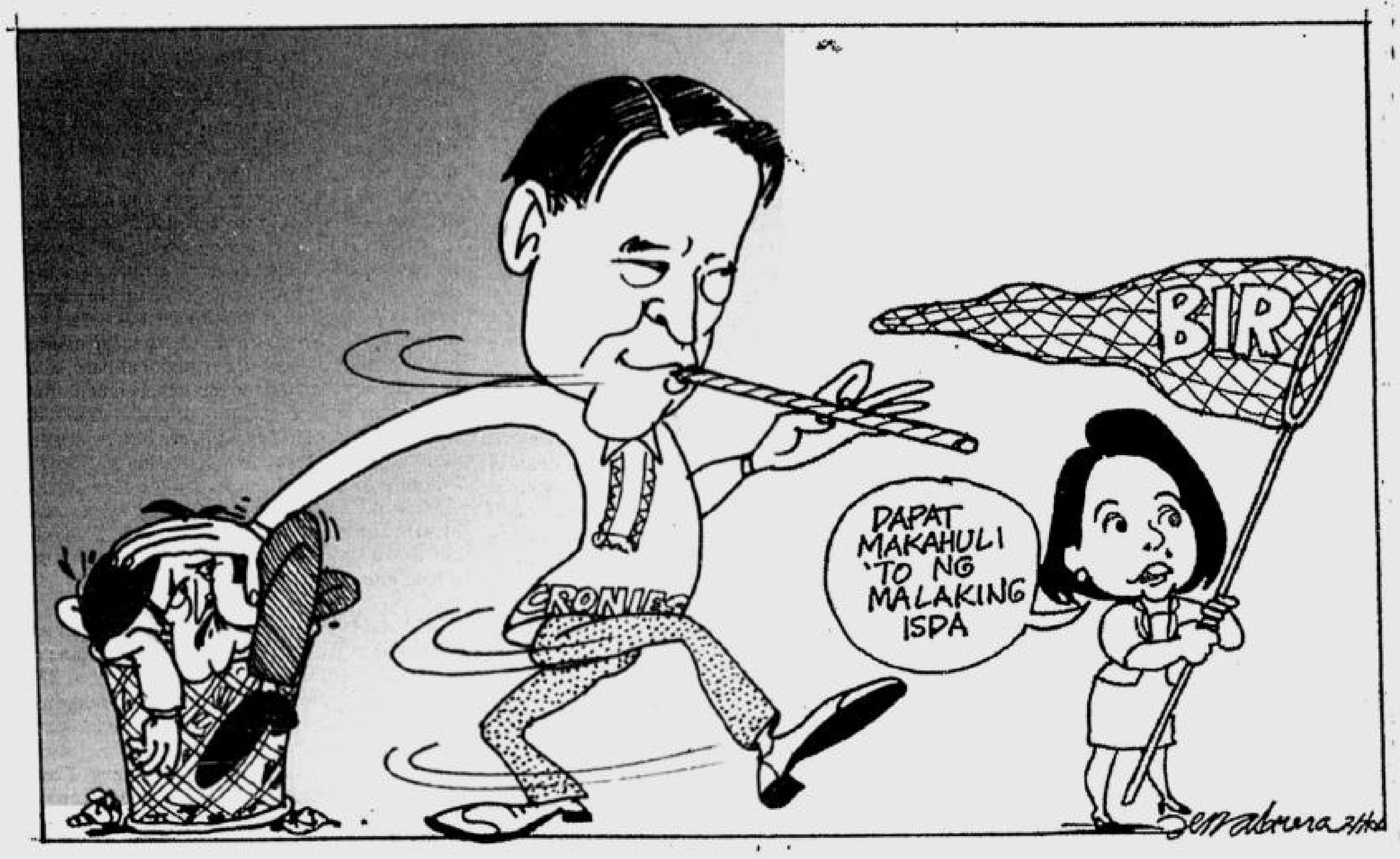

BIR
CRONIES
DAPAT MAKAHULI 'TO NG MALAKING ISPA

Self-deception

EDITORIAL

FORMER Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara says Joseph Estrada never got drunk even as the end of his presidency drew near. But he might as well have drunk himself to stupor, if his behavior at the climax of the biggest crisis of his life is anything to go by. With everything collapsing around him, including the support of his Cabinet, the Armed Forces and the police, Estrada continued to act as if he remained in control not only of his own destiny but also of the government. This was quite evident from his public pronouncements, and Angara has confirmed it in his recollection of his 13th and final day as Estrada's de facto prime minister.

On Jan. 19 when the crowd at Edsa was swelling to close to a million people, Estrada began throwing crumbs to appease their hunger for truth and their anger over its suppression. He appeared on television to announce that he had directed his lawyers in the impeachment trial to agree to the opening of the second Equitable PCI Bank envelope believed to contain damaging information about his financial transactions. Even as he saw the support of the Armed Forces slip away with the defection of Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes and all the service commanders, Estrada offered to hold a snap presidential election in which he would not stand as a candidate. Such gestures of appeasement were of course too little and too late, and nobody had the inclination to give them a serious thought. Events were moving fast and Estrada and his closest advisers could not catch up.

It was only at around 3 p.m. that Friday afternoon after Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, Reyes and other military generals joined the demonstrators at Edsa that the idea of resignation was broached to Estrada. And it was Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. who brought up the topic, according to Angara.

But even as the thought that he would have to give up the presidency sank in, Estrada and his aides continued to labor under the illusion that they were in a position to impose conditions. Hanging on to the assurance of Reyes that he could stay for five more days, Estrada, through Angara, told the opposition representatives during the first round of negotiations held shortly after midnight on Jan. 20 that he would resign but only on Jan. 24. He also asked for a guarantee of safety for his families and property and "freedom from persecution or retaliation…throughout their lifetimes." He likewise sought the opening of the second envelope so that he could "vindicate his name."

Later that morning in the last round of negotiations, Angara prepared a draft agreement containing essentially the same points plus the additional condition that then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issue a statement commending Estrada "for his rare display of statesmanship in effecting a peaceful transition" and praising him for his "steadfast adherence to the Constitution and its processes, with the highest consideration for the national interest."

Had Ms Macapagal agreed to make that statement she would have had to deliver it before the *hakot* crowd shouting "Estrada remain!" For that would have been a repudiation of the hundreds of thousands who had flocked to Edsa and everything they were fighting for. Had she pledged not to "persecute" Estrada and his families and instead guaranteed the security of their property, she would have turned Edsa into a useless exercise. For more than putting her in power, Edsa was about changing an incompetent, immoral and criminal administration.

Apparently it never occurred to Estrada and his advisers how utterly foolish it would be for anyone to demand such things. For how could anyone in his right mind ask a president to resign if he has been faithful to the Constitution and always acted in the national interest? How could anyone drive out of office a "statesman" and a "patriot who brought peace to our country"? It's very difficult to imagine anybody mouthing such fulsome praise without gagging.

That Angara and the other presidential advisers in Malacañang thought they could sell that line only showed how little value they placed on the truth. But then truthfulness and honesty were hardly observed in the Palace; in fact, it was dishonesty that brought Estrada down. Thus, until the anti-Estrada forces were at the gates of Malacañang, Palace officials could not accept the reality that the only condition they could make with some certainty that it would be granted is that their safety be assured. Even as he took that boat ride on the Pasig, Estrada himself refused (and still refuses) to accept the ultimate truth that the presidency had slipped out of his hands irretrievably.

Will GMA please stop worsening spoils system?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I DON'T understand President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. She says one thing and then does the opposite.

In her inaugural speech, she said she wants her officials to be like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Then she turns around and appoints retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia and PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza who not only are suspected of wrongdoing but have actually been accused of and investigated for, respectively, graft, and gambling and being in league with criminals.

She said she wants her officials to be young with fresh ideas. Then she turns around and appoints retired Gen. Fortunato Abat who, it is plain to see, practically belongs to the Jurassic age.

She said she wants new faces and new ideas in her administration. Then she turns around and packs her Cabinet with the same old *trapos* who had infested past administrations like flies and had been thrown out by the voters. New administrations usually sweep out the dirt of the past; the present one is sweeping them in.

Is this just a case of the President and her speechwriters running on different wavelengths? (She should hire former Press Secretary Dong Puno as speechwriter so they would see eye to eye.) Or is she a hostage of her assistants and advisers that she has become a veritable puppet to them?

Will the new Macapagal administration, swept to power with so much goodwill and expectations like the Aquino administration in 1986, also end with a whimper as did the first one? Will Macapagal squander the groundswell of goodwill generated by People Power II? Will her term end up in the grip of greedy, grasping, gross and graft-prone groups of *trapos*?

* * *

Past presidents down to Macapagal's own father, President Diosdado Macapagal, changed only the Cabinet members but not the lower echelons of the bureaucracy. Undersecretaries, bureau directors and lower remained untouched. They were the career officials in the Civil Service who provided the continuity in the service despite the change in administrations.

But because of the spoils system grown worse through the years, even the small fry are now replaced by the hungry camp followers of the new President. In the Gloria administration (what an ironic name!), even the heads of government-owned and controlled corporations, members of the Board of Censors, and officials and editors of sequestered broadcast networks and newspapers are fired.

Hordes of salivating opportunists now invade offices like barbarian conquerors and take over without any appointment papers. Maybe the pickings are so rich in the government. The salaries of government officials are so low, why would people in the private sector leave it for jobs in the government unless they intend to get rich by stealing from the public coffers? Or is unemployment so bad that government jobs are the only means of livelihood left? Will the time come when even the clerks and janitors will be replaced with every change of administration? Isn't it time that we stop this worsening shameful practice?

As I said before, President Macapagal has the rare opportunity to reform the bureaucracy and society because of the tremendous amount of goodwill that People Power II brought her. In fact, the people expect her to do just that. The people believe she can and will do that. And the first thing she should do is to stop the descent of the spoils system to its lowest depths.

How can we expect the civil servants to work hard and true when they know they would be replaced after three or six years? What they do instead is to make as much as they can as fast as they can before a new president comes in.

In the past, civil servants worked hard to climb up the ladder of the bureaucracy to become at least a bureau director or an undersecretary before they retire. They make public service their lifetime careers. Not anymore.

Now government service is viewed only as a stepping stone to sudden wealth, mostly ill-gotten. How many times have we seen people applying for jobs, mostly in the Bureau of Customs or Bureau of Internal Revenue, and lately in the Presidential Commission on Good Government, "even without pay." Why would they want to work without pay if they don't intend to steal?

President Macapagal is obviously under great pressure to appoint recommendees of politicians. And either she is overly grateful to them or is so overwhelmed by the appointment papers being shoved at her that she signs them blindly.

She shouldn't do that. And she shouldn't be grateful to the politicians. They did not put her in Malacañang. It was the people who did. The politicians did not organize People Power II, even if they claim credit for it and try to rewrite history this early. Nobody called the people to Edsa. Jaime Cardinal Sin called the people to Edsa during People Power I in 1986 to protect, ironically, Enrile and Honasan—two senators who voted to suppress evidence in the impeachment trial—but nobody called them there for People Power II in January of 2001. They went there spontaneously, aided by cellphones and text messages, because of anger and to protest the "No" votes of Enrile, Honasan and the rest of the Dirty Eleven in the Senate. Macapagal owes a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of thousands of faceless Filipinos who trooped to Edsa, not to the *trapos*. And they're not the ones asking for jobs. All they're asking for is reforms and good government.

The President should not fail them.

Undiscovered country

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE discovered something during the last few months that holds tremendous possibilities for keeping People Power alive. I mentioned it in passing in a column last week. That is the virtual global Filipino community that has quietly spun out of the Web.

It has a more colorful—and very Pinoy—cousin, which is the "texting community." That is the (exponentially) growing tribe of cellular phone owners, local and expatriate, that likes sending text messages to one another. I believe them when they say their contribution to People Power II has been enormous. It's so not merely in that they made communication easier and faster, it's so in that they made Erap's excommunication easier and faster. It's so not merely in that they made it easier and faster for people to listen and gather, it's so in that they made it easier and faster for people to laugh and smolder.

The "text revolution" has a claim to the name in one real sense. This country has a rich satirical tradition dating back to Rizal, and the "texters" added whole new dimensions to it, via the power of the new technology, by unleashing an unrelenting barrage of Erap jokes. Many of the jokes were rehashed, but some were real gems. I agree that those "Eraptions" helped mightily to push up the magma of Filipino outrage and caused the eruption of the social volcano last month.

Of course "texting" has its downside too. Quite apart from wreaking havoc on the kids' spelling—it amazes me how they are able to read what looks like a garbled telegram to me, and fills me with dread that that is the language of the future—it is wreaking havoc on the art of conversation. It's almost impossible now to talk to anyone for five minutes without his cellular phone ringing and without him or her rushing to text back an answer. Sometimes, you see whole bunches of people on a table bunched up on their cellular phones, sending text messages—I can only most sincerely hope not to each other. Conversation has never been an art in this country to begin with. To see it trashed even further is totally discomfiting.

I can also only most sincerely hope people switch off their units while making love.

That must suggest that I am one of the last holdouts in what seems like a lost cause. I don't know though how long I can put off not having a cell phone. I'm under pressure from everyone around me to relent.

The virtual global Filipino community is something else, and it's been a real pleasure for me watching it being born from the (Lamaze) vantage point of my own e-mail. I first grew aware of it a couple of years ago during the height of Erap's—and Jerry Barican's—attempts to whip the INQUIRER into line variously by mounting an ad boycott against it, by discriminating against INQUIRER reporters in Malacañang, and by unleashing the Furies, in the persons of Korina Sanchez et al., against it. It was the expatriate Filipino community that helped turn the tide of that war, inundating as it did the INQUIRER e-mail—and those of Erap and Barican, though with quite another variety of mail entirely—with expressions of ardent and undying support for the paper. Some letter-writers even proposed to raise funds for the INQUIRER so that it could make up for lost income.

What struck me at the time was its implication for the press, specifically for the concept of news. I wrote a column about it, saying that news was bound to become more interactive, or—which should warm the heart of post-modernists—more participative. With the new technology (the INQUIRER had just gone online that year), which allowed readers to comment on stories and opinion as soon as they came out, readers stood in a very real sense to take part in the "making of the story." Stories, or reports, would no longer be ex-cathedra or gospel truth, an aspect they took on especially in print (rather than broadcast) form. They would be open-ended and challengeable. Reporters and columnists would henceforth be on their toes. The possibilities were endless and exciting. They still are.

The even more copious and ardent outpouring of sentiment by Filipinos across the globe over the last several months has shown me yet new possibilities not just for the press and the concept of news but for the country and the concept of being Filipino. Indeed, it has opened up whole new vistas there. Late last year, the INQUIRER tied up with GMA 7 to produce its current Online service, and the results have been nothing short of phenomenal. My own e-mail, as I've said before, has grown into a dense forest and it's all I can do to catch up with readers' reactions every day. Some letters come from such exotic places as Georgia, Russia and Katmandu—truly, the Filipino Diaspora is vast.

But it's not just the reach, it's also the depth. These letters do not just come from far away, they come from deep within the Filipino soul. They are profoundly thoughtful, the profundity owing to the fact not just that they are written by very intelligent people but by people who have no vested interests. These people are not angling for anything. All they want is to see their country succeed, and would not mind contributing their thoughts, talents, and even money to help it do so.

Indeed, even more than that, these letters come straight from the heart. It's as if the Filipinos who write them have, by their temporary (or even permanent) loss of their heartland, become more emotionally attached to it. These letters are not just hastily scribbled notes, they are veritable love letters to the homeland. Call it true patriotism, call it true nationalism, but the intensity of the professions of love is sometimes breathtaking.

All these were probably always there before, but the new technology has allowed them to take shape and turn into a tremendous force. Expatriate Filipinos no longer need be spectators in the unfolding history of their country, or at best lobby groups that push for the passage of certain laws and policies. They can interact with, take part in, and directly influence the course of their country's affairs. They have the power to do that now. To a great extent, the new technology has reduced the pauperization of the country by returning to the country, if virtually, part of the Brain it lost in the Drain. Or more than the Brain, the Spirit it lost in the Great Spiriting Away of its best and brightest. We've got on our side now people who are tops in their fields, who have only the best intentions for this country, who are willing to give of themselves without being asked. Surely, we've got to ask ourselves:

What can we not do?

Crucial query, crucial decision

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

FACED with the specter of imminent arrest, deposed President Joseph Estrada has asked the Supreme Court to stop the preliminary investigation by the Ombudsman into charges of plunder and bribery filed against him.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto had rejected Estrada's motion to suspend the investigation for 60 days, and the extension for another 30 days the filing of his comment on charges arising from alleged *jueteng* payoffs and tobacco excise tax kickbacks.

Desierto gave Estrada within one week to answer the charges, or face formal complaints and arrest. In going to the Supreme Court, Estrada forced the issue of whether he enjoys immunity from suits, on the grounds that he is still President and that he has only taken a leave. Estrada is forcing the hands of the Court which, in a resolution dated Jan. 22, unanimously decided to confirm the authority given by 12 justices to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on Jan. 20, to administer the oath of office to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President, to make a ruling on the constitutional legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's presidency.

Estrada has taken an early step to arrive at a moment of truth. He is in effect asking the court to overturn its resolution. With this move, Estrada has taken great risks. A reversal of the resolution entails serious political repercussions. But Estrada's back is pressed to the wall. The last time the President forced the issue on the opening of the second envelope in the impeachment trial, the results were disastrous. The 11-10 Senate vote suppressing the evidence contained in the envelope sparked People Power II.

Estrada and his Senate cohorts underestimated the powerful public backlash against the suppression of the envelope, and the tolerance of the people to the crude use of power to subvert legal processes. Estrada could be grossly miscalculating the Supreme Court's capacity to maintain its ruling.

Before going to the Supreme Court, Estrada had tried to delay the Ombudsman's preliminary investigation by claiming he couldn't find lawyers to defend him. But suddenly, he had lawyers signing his petition to the Supreme Court—Cleofe Verzola and Pacifico Agabin.

If Estrada's motion to suspend the preliminary investigation is thrown out by the Court, he can be arrested. Justice Secretary Hernani Perez has pledged there would be no leniency or preferential treatment. And there won't be any house arrest, says Perez. Putting him merely on house arrest would shatter the notion of equality before the law.

Lawyer Rene Saguisag, who styles himself as the champion of the underdog and the downtrodden, warns of unrest and street rallies if Estrada is arrested. Saguisag assumes that Estrada loyalists, presumably the poor, would not accept arrest. Saguisag is assuming too much. When Estrada was in danger of being stormed in the Palace by multitudes incited by his insistence that he be given five days to wind down his affairs, Estrada's paid hooligans melted away. Saguisag's assumption that the poor will run berserk in the streets to protest his arrest insults the poor. Implicit in this argument is that the poor are so dumb they would die for Estrada even though he has robbed them.

Letting the law take its course has risks in a society that has never sent any of its presidents to jail. The new administration has to take risks to enforce the law. If there's going to be violent reaction from Estrada's die-hard followers, then it's time to show that this administration means business. Saguisag has not told us whether he will join the mob in the street unrest or just stay far away from the barricades while pronouncing legal homilies inciting the mob to violence.

* * *

The Estrada administration nominated Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to the International Court of Justice last December. Following the fall of the Estrada administration, the Macapagal administration said the Department of Foreign Affairs could continue to lobby for her but Acting Foreign Secretary Lauro Baja Jr., said there was a problem. She wrote Santiago that if she wanted to push her candidature for the post in The Hague, she was to give up her plans to run for the Senate. In effect, Baja laid a trap to force Santiago to give up her aspiration for The Hague without being told the government wanted to sideline her.

She fell into the trap. Baja's letter offended her. She lashed at Baja for "intimidating" her and in protest against the intimidation, she has decided to stand for the Senate. Her angry reaction has removed her from contention for The Hague and has pushed her to the prospect of losing her reelection bid. There's a strong backlash against her in Western Visayas, her regional base, over her defense of Estrada in the impeachment trial. She suffers from the stigma of association with Estrada. Without lifting a finger, the new administration found a way to sideline her politically. Filipinos have also been spared the distinct possibility of being embarrassed if she represented them at The Hague. No one can be sure she would not throw tantrums at the deliberations of the sedate international court.

* * *

The euphoria enveloping the Macapagal administration has become too heady for some of the senior officials of the administration. The arrogance of power has gone too soon into their heads. It is getting to be tough to contact some Cabinet officials for purposes of getting information from them or requesting interviews. These officials give more access to AM media reporters who wake them up early in the morning and pounce upon them with stupid questions. Serious print journalists don't get that much access.

Forgotten all too soon is that more than 90 percent of AM radio stations were pro-Estrada or reported the news with a distinct bias against the opposition. AM radio spearheaded the demolition job against then Vice President Macapagal. The government is turning AM radio into propaganda allies who have shifted allegiance as swiftly as Estrada's cronies have dumped him.

Why, Rene?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AN ENDURING mystery in the wake of People Power II, along with the identity of the lady in black (now solved for us by the lady herself), is the state of mind—and heart—of Rene Saguisag.

"Whatever happened to Rene?" is a question, often voiced in plaintive tones, heard as often these days as "Will there be a coup?" and "Who will be named Vice President?" But while it's easy to dismiss the coup talk as mere rumors, and the name of the new Veep is expected any minute now, I'm afraid only Rene can enlighten us about Rene.

It just goes to show how enduring public affection is for this feisty lawyer who, on his first and only run for the Senate after Edsa I, asked voters to "adopt" him because he had no money to fuel his campaign.

Don't make us regret our votes, Rene!

There are many theories on why Saguisag should now be lawyering for Erap. It's the "spirit of contradiction" that has always moved him, some say. Others speculate it must be residual hatred for former President Ramos, whom he indicted as head of an investigative committee, on corruption charges. A love for the underdog? C'mon, Senator Ampon, don't be delusional. Erap is as much an underdog as Hitler was toward the close of World War II.

Almost no one says Rene is doing it for the money, recognizing that wealth has not been a primary motivator in his life.

But what hurts and puzzles those who still want to believe in him is that in the course of his defense of his client, he sees fit to denigrate at the same time the same kind of "People Power" that in 1986 saved him from the dogs of Marcos.

That's both snide and unnecessary, Rene, and unworthy of the name you had built up in your years of struggle.

* * *

MAJORITY of Filipinos (about six out of 10 or 64 percent) believes that guns and their proliferation are a major cause of crime and violence in the country. Even more Filipinos (83 percent) are in favor of a law that allows only law enforcers and licensed private security guards who are authorized, in uniform and on duty to carry firearms in public places

These findings are contained in the Ulat ng Bayan national survey conducted by Pulse Asia in October and December last year. The surveys covered a sample size of 1,200 respondents, all of them 18 years old and above.

"The people have spoken, but are the politicians listening? Are they going to do something about it?" asked Nandy Pacheco of Nature/Gunless Society, which commissioned the survey questions on gun control and which has pushed for gun control legislation for the past 11 years.

As expected, most of those who believe there is a link between the proliferation of guns and violence favor a gun regulation law. But even more noteworthy is that 72 percent of those who disagree with the proposed "Gunless Society" law prefer it over a law that will allow all holders of licensed firearms to carry their weapons anywhere they like.

* * *

PUBLIC support for gun regulation legislation should come as no surprise for our lawmakers. In 1990, when the Gunless Society first launched its lobbying campaign, it was able to gather more than a million signatures in support of the proposed law.

The question is, when it comes to gun regulation, to whom do politicians listen? To the people? Or to the gun lobby?

Former President Cory Aquino certified the gun regulation bill as urgent, but it was shot down in the end by, ironically enough, the President's brother Peping who chose not to move it through the House committee he chaired. During the incumbencies of Presidents Ramos and Erap, no gun control measure could move because both chief executives were pro-gun. "Our best hope now is President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the incoming members of the House and Senate," says Pacheco.

With the new government swept on a tide of goodwill and peaceful "People Power," Pacheco hurls a challenge to the "Edsa Forces" asking for the people's votes in May. "Place gun control legislation in your platforms and legislative agenda. If you are truly for peace and for peace and order, then regulating the carrying of guns in public places would be a logical first step."

Besides which, as the surveys show, it's both the popular and the right thing to do.

* * *

COMMENTATORS have observed the disproportionate number of Batangueños in the Macapagal Cabinet. This is the doing, they said, of Executive Secretary Renato de Villa who not only hails from Batangas, but has also had a lot of his former colleagues in the military appointed to plum posts.

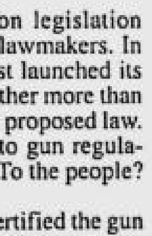
But how to explain the fact that two members of the new Cabinet hail from the same town in Pangasinan? Both the new agriculture secretary, Leonardo Montemayor, who before his appointment was sectoral representative of the peasants' party-list group ABA, and the new agrarian reform secretary, Hernani Braganza, are from Alaminos, Pangasinan.

Braganza has been described as a nephew of former President Fidel Ramos, his mother being a Ramos cousin, as if that explains his appointment.

Montemayor, on the other hand, is the son of Jeremias Montemayor, one of the founders of the Federation of Free Farmers which advocated more than 30 years ago the then daring and "radical" concept of agrarian reform. Family lore has it that Tito Jerry was nearly disowned by his mother, Bai Amparo, when he announced that he was in favor of giving away his mother's landholdings to their tenants. Leony himself has impressive academic credentials, and the fact that he chose to cast his lot with Filipino peasants is proof that his father passed on more to him than just genes.

Chasing books

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST week I delivered a talk on collecting Filipiniana books at the Lopez Museum. Being the first in a year-long series of lunchtime lectures on various arts and collecting, I was not sure what was expected of me. However, it gave me an excuse to look back on people I have met in the mad chase for books.

While I grew up in a house with books—my father was a wide reader and my mother stocked up on cookbooks—I did not consciously collect Filipiniana till the early 1980s. One of the books I remember from my childhood was on Philippine folk tales retold by Manuel and Lyd Arguilla, illustrated by Aruego. It was an autographed copy my father picked up from the Philippine Art Gallery. My father now regrets not buying modern art when it was good and cheap. A painting he could have bought when he bought the Arguilla book, if sold today, would probably buy me a new car. No regrets though because this book of folk tales gave me an alternative world from the Western nursery rhymes and fairly tales most Filipino children learn in preschool. The Arguilla book was my first memory of Filipiniana, it came long before I was forced to read "How My Brother Leon Brought Home a Wife."

We must have had more bookshelves than the rest of my father's family combined which explains why my aunt's medical books were kept in our library till I became an adult. By the time these medical textbooks were returned, to create more shelf space, I had gotten my early sex education from the anatomical photos. Aside from books in the home, my father gave me a lifelong passion for books because he never refused a trip to a bookstore, and never refused to buy me a book. Toys were always a conditional subject to intense bargaining. However, when my two sisters came along, my father softened up and pampered them with all the toys they desired. Thus, one cannot say that growing up in a house with books creates readers. Perhaps one can only absorb what one is capable and willing to absorb from the environment. I don't even think my sisters read this column or my books.

In time my own library grew alongside my father's library. He had engineering, business and a lot of detective books of the Perry Mason-type. I liked Mickey Spillane for the scantily clad women on the covers. My mother had cookbooks and my favorites were the glossy illustrated ones that made my mouth water and gave me a lifelong passion for eating out. My books were rather eclectic, when I outgrew the Hardy Boys the books turned to art and history. Filipiniana came into my life in college when I needed obscure topics for term papers. This led me to the Lopez Museum, then in its old location behind the Hyatt Hotel on Roxas Boulevard. This museum educated me not only on Luna and Hidalgo paintings, it provided hands-on access to Rizal manuscripts, old maps, prints and hundreds of books on the Philippines—real Filipiniana.

Then I met people with great Filipiniana collections—Teodoro A. Agoncillo, E. Aguilar Cruz, Carlos Quirino, Armando Malay, E. Arsenio Manuel and others who encouraged me to collect Filipiniana. Though I was intimidated by these vast private libraries, I know that great collections begin with the first book. Cruz and Agoncillo were particularly helpful by always having a book out for discussion when I came for a visit and conversations that stretched for hours. One book that comes to mind is "Cartas sobre la Revolucion (Letters on the Revolution)" by Mariano Ponce, a writer of La Solidaridad, friend of Rizal and Aguinaldo's diplomatic representative to Japan during the Filipino-American War. The frontispiece to this book was a photograph of Mariano Ponce and Sun Yat Sen. Cruz covered the caption with his hand and asked me to identify Ponce from Dr. Sun. The choice was obvious—one man was standing, wearing a Japanese kimono, the other, seated, was in Western attire. I pointed to the man in a coat and tie as Ponce only to be surprised that it was the other way round! This experience taught me the importance of visuals and made me critical enough never to take things at face value. This may explain my brand of historical writing.

Other visual books that affected me greatly were the offset reprints of Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo." At the time I was taking the compulsory Spanish courses in college, hating every minute of it, yet I was fascinated by Rizal's handwritten novels which I had previously known in their *komiks* version. After contemplating the erasures and editing, I read Rizal's novels in the original Spanish with the help of a dictionary. I was amused that these oversized books could be purchased from the National Historical Institute for less than a hundred pesos. Nobody wanted them. One Christmas I gave these away and I still see them in the homes of friends and relatives—unread on coffee tables yet providing instant conversation at the start of parties when guests sip their drinks and exchange gossip by the coffee table. Filipiniana is a way to get linked to our history.

* * *

On Saturday, Feb. 10, at 10 a.m., I will give a lecture on "Luna and Hidalgo: Filipino Painters in Europe," at the National Museum. The public is invited.

'Corporate genius' at work

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

THAT should have been the caption on major dailies' front-page photos Saturday of fugitive businessman Mark Jimenez with his impish grin as he was about to kiss Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's ring. After all, "corporate genius" was how his former patron Joseph Estrada described him, and he's now obviously at work.

He must have a good PR man. The two biggest dailies had exactly the same caption: "New Journey." Those were Jimenez's words, as he described his audience with Sin as the "start of a new journey."

Jimenez didn't really explain what his new trip was. The spin his PR people have been trying to accomplish though is that Jimenez has miraculously seen the light, that he's junking his friend Estrada, that he'll rat on him, that he is turning a new leaf, to now serve God and country.

Who else better to tell people he's a changed man than Sin?

We think he was actually thinking in Filipino, and what he really meant was: "*May bago akong lakad.*" Only a literary Filipino professor would translate that as having a "new journey." The way Filipinos really use that sentence, it means: "I have a new tack." The gangster in Estrada's movies saying that means: "I've got a new racket."

Genius' two problems

Estrada's "corporate genius" has two big problems to solve.

One, with People Power II, he's found himself trapped in the country, a sitting duck for US marshals to extract him from his Forbes Park mansion and throw him into a Washington, D.C. cell. It might even occur to US Republican President George W. Bush that Jimenez's testimony could embarrass his Democratic predecessor Bill Clinton. In the span of three days, Jimenez found his protector, the most powerful man in the country, gone.

Two, Jimenez's big lesson in business—for which he got into trouble with US authorities and which he validated all over again under Estrada—is that cronyism means windfall profits. In the span of three days, he found himself a crony of somebody useless.

The "corporate genius" has hit the new ground running, and even wants to hit two birds with one stone. He's offered to spill all the beans on Estrada. The investigation and the trial, which could last years, make up a good excuse to keep the US marshals in check. That move also establishes the connections he needs with the new administration. Yes, Justice Secretary Hernani Perez is a respected legal luminary. But he's also a shrewd politician who knows his realpolitik.

You can't fault Jimenez though for trying to save his own skin, and doing everything he can to avoid extradition. What could be worrying though is the other part of his plan: Establish new connections with the powers-that-be in the new administration.

May election problem

Jimenez knows that his timing is good. In barely three months' time, there's an event that is crucial for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It's the May elections for Congress and all other local posts.

If Estrada's remaining gang still manages to win, President Macapagal at best becomes a lame-duck President until 2004. At worst, it could prompt the military to think, "Oops, we made a mistake on Jan. 19; we have to correct that mistake." Another scenario is for Fidel Ramos and Jose de Venecia's party to sweep the elections, to reduce President Macapagal into a dummy under their control.

It's a problem for the new administration. In the first People Power, Corazon Aquino was the courageous widow, the beloved heroine of democracy. So much so that all a candidate needed to win, even for a Senate seat, was for him to be photographed with Aquino as her anointed.

Ms Macapagal isn't the Cory of the second People Power. She really doesn't even have her own party yet to speak of. Our two People Power episodes haven't at all transformed our electoral politics. Machinery is still necessary—but not sufficient, of course—to win in the polls.

And what fuels machinery is money, lots of it. But Ms Macapagal won't certainly—as Estrada and his company would have done so—extort money from big business or develop cronies to raise the war chest for the May elections. Even if she wanted to, there's just not enough time. And you can't really imagine the Ayala and Concepcion conglomerates, or the Makati Business Club, raising money to fund the campaign of a mayor or a governor Ms Macapagal thinks should win.

Jimenez knows this. And he's got the money to burn. After all, his freedom is at stake.

When Estrada first referred to Jimenez in 1999 as a "corporate genius," we didn't quite get it.

With the revelations during the impeachment trial, and the coming ones Jimenez purportedly would sing about, we know now what Estrada meant. Estrada was really thinking: "Here's a guy who can think of schemes to get 'clean' money for us. Unlike Atong Ang whose brightest ideas were getting a kickback from *jueteng* and from tobacco taxes."

Indeed, two of the biggest corporate takeovers ever in the country were the purchase by First Pacific of PLDT and the buy-out by Equitable Bank of PCI Bank. Jimenez allegedly was a broker in both deals, and that he made money for himself and Estrada. That's not all. Talk in business circles is that he was also involved in the early stages of the now infamous BW Resources scam, as well as in several other market plays using Social Security System funds.

Jimenez certainly hasn't run out of brilliant ideas. Will the new people in power be enticed by schemes offered by the "corporate genius"?

The smartest crony

While we're on the topic of cronyism, Jimenez's "corporate genius" status is really rivaled by plastics and property tycoon William Gatchalian. He might even be the smartest crony. Gatchalian took advantage of Lucio Tan's huge headache with Philippine Airlines in 1998, by selling him—reportedly with Estrada's help—Air Philippines, at a P250 million profit. Estrada allegedly told Tan that in case PAL folds up, he can instead use Air Philippines as the corporate vehicle for his planes. It was an offer Tan couldn't refuse. In Estrada's first year, Gatchalian went on a buying binge, purchasing the Waterfront Hotel-Casino in Cebu and Fort Ilocandia in Ilocos.

Then the impeachment trial revealed that Gatchalian's conglomerate got P500 million in funds from the "Jose Velarde" account. But neither Estrada nor Jaime Dichaves are now claiming that account. We won't be surprised if it turns out that Gatchalian's books didn't even record that P500 million infusion.

A crony fleecing money from a corrupt president? How smart can you get?

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

THEY SAID

Bad for the military

"I've said this before that if you give soldiers political power, it would be difficult to put them back in the barracks."

—Sen. Rodolfo Biazon asking that the military not be given too much credit for Edsa II

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Old issues against globalization revisited

ALTHOUGH the 11-10 Senate vote outraged me, I did not go to Edsa. Reason: the leading Edsa players were all globalists. Of course, the labor and peasant components of Edsa were critical of globalization, but it was clear that it is not they but the globalists who would call the shots in the post-Edsa setup.

Through import liberalization, globalization has already marginalized Philippine manufacturing and agriculture during the last six years. We are now an import-dependent nation. According to the Federation of Philippine Industries, if our tariff rates are not rolled back to the 1997 levels and the tariffs on imported raw materials not locally produced are not cut down to zero, very few of our remaining industries, if any, would survive. These conditions call for the renegotiation of our existing commitments—assurances blindly made by our negotiators on the basis of faith in free trade—with the World Trade Organization.

Worse, under the Asean Free Trade Agreement, tariffs within Southeast Asia are due to be cut down to zero to 5 percent within this year. In 2004, tariffs within the Asia-Pacific region, which includes the United States, Canada and Japan, are now already programmed to be leveled down to zero to 5 percent. Like our earlier pledges to the WTO, our commitments to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation were made in total disregard of realities. What our industries in manufacturing and agriculture need are not safety nets. Like what Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir is doing to Malaysia's car industry, they should not be allowed to fall. What they need is the opportunity to make themselves competitive before globalization's wolves are let in.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Inciong and Associates, Unit 301, Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Needed: a safer way to dispose of garbage

THE FIRST bill to be signed into law by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the Solid Waste Management Act. The President said that the new law symbolizes the reforms that her administration will undertake to solve not only the garbage problem, but the stinking and rotting corruption in government.

Really? As the President signed the new law, another trash slide in Payatas claimed the life of a teenage "*mangangalahig*" boy. Last July 10, 2000, the first trash slide in Payatas claimed the lives of more than 300 urban poor residents of Lupang Pangako. Until now, the bodies of 78 victims remain unrecovered. But still, the city government under Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. not only denies justice to the victims but also bullheadedly refuses to close the dump.

Last Nov. 10, even with strong local resistance, then President Joseph Estrada ordered the reopening of the Payatas dump, heeding the request of Mathay, a die-hard Estrada supporter. It is an open secret in Quezon City that the son of Mathay, Chuck Mathay, co-owns REN Transport, the main garbage contractor of Quezon City. The Quezon City government allots close to P1 million a day for the city waste management. Aside from this amount, the city government collects an entry fee of P500 per truck per entry to the Payatas site. That is certainly a big source of fund this coming election.

The new administration obviously did not immediately look into this. But if it genuinely wants to solve the garbage crisis in the metropolis, not only must it pass laws but it should heed the demand of the people to trash politicians like Mathay who don't care about the welfare of the people. It must close immediately the Payatas dump which is not only ecologically disastrous and threatens the lives of people living there but also endangers the health of all Metro Manila residents. Since it lies only 200 meters away, it may contaminate the main source of Metro Manila's potable water, the La Mesa Dam.

At the same time, the government must prevent a repetition of this experience anywhere else by stopping the dumping of Metro Manila's garbage in nearby provinces. President Macapagal and new MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. must know that garbage segregation and recycling are not enough to solve the garbage crisis. They should have the political will to find other more creative ways of disposing garbage that will ensure the protection of the people and environment.—**CLEMENTE G. BAUTISTA JR., policy advocacy officer, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment, 175-B Kamias Ext., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City**

Giving autism a bad name

WHILE I share Sonny Maroon's reaction to Sen. Francisco Tatad's full-page advertisement calling for then President Estrada's resignation (PDI, 1/29/01), I resent his implication that Tatad may be "suffering from acute autism." The comment obviously betrays Maroon's ignorance of this developmental disability and gravely dishonors persons with autism. The senator may be suffering from some mental disorder; but definitely not autism.

I am taking the time and effort to correct misconceptions such as this, because the Autism Society Philippines Inc. works hard precisely to make the public understand autism. We do not need write-ups such as Maroon's, using the term "autism" or "autistic" freely to label people considered offensive.

Persons with autism have enough troubles already, without having to be lumped together with persons of questionable character. Many children and adults with autism are really quite smart, charming and lovable, despite their disability. Quite a few have savant characteristics. In the Philippines several have excelled in music and painting and one even graduated at the top of his class in an exclusive college a few years ago.—**CONCHITA M. RAGRAGIO, president, Autism Society Philippines Inc., Rm. 307, ML Bldg., 47 Kamias Road, Quezon City**

Healing our land

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's repeated call for healing our country suggests that our country is sick. And she is correct.

But I hope the President is not suggesting that the remedy is tender loving care because the patient is not suffering from a simple headache. The patient is wounded, and is bleeding profusely. A thorough physical exam supervised by Hilario Davide Jr. revealed that several parasites, viruses and bacteria are responsible for the infection, aggravating the internal hemorrhaging.

I hope then that the doctors of justice apply the proper cure to our sickness, so that these germs are done away with, and we can be healed and be healthy again.—**ELSON T. ELIZAGA, Nazca Graphic Design & Photography, 2nd Floor, Elizaga Caltex Station, Lapasan Highway, Cagayan de Oro City**

First, a campaign against corruption

IN HER inaugural address, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo scarcely made specific reference to corruption. She mentioned the word only once in reference to improvement of moral standards.

She must be reminded that her four core beliefs will translate to naught unless, first, corruption is resolutely crushed wherever it raises its ugly visage. The best laid plans for eradicating poverty, raising moral standards in government and society, changing the character of politics, and promoting solid traits of work ethic and dignified lifestyle will flounder unless a determined drive against graft and corruption is waged first.

The drive must be manifested in concrete and practical moves such as speedy resolution of graft and corruption cases and institution of adequate checks and surveillance of sensitive functions in government agencies. The prosecution arms of the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman must be augmented to the extent necessary to strike fear among potential transgressors. The cost of this will perhaps be amply compensated by the savings in revenue that otherwise would have been lost to corruption.

There is no price too high to pay for an honest and efficient government. We have seen in the past decades how our government has failed to attain the very basic goals of good governance as it is weighed down by corruption. In the preparation of the national budget, no cost limits should be set for ensuring efficient and honest performance by the public servant and imposing a sure deterrent to misconduct. Then, perhaps, our goals for elimination of poverty, peace and order and economic progress will come as natural consequences.

The role of the private sector is of course crucial. An indifferent and tolerant public lends itself to abuse by those who rule like an uncomplaining battered wife invites recurrent assault. When constituents fawn before the servants they have placed in exalted positions of authority for petty favors or preferential treatment in the application of rules in their particular interest, we have a prescription for breakdown of good governance. In a society where members close their eyes to wrongdoings of their social peers, good governance is a hopeless dream.

In the Philippine setting where we have a vigilant press, a civil society with a commitment to justice, prepared to ostracize and chastise its abusive public servant regardless of affinity or of the exalted positions they have been placed, would be the ultimate deterrent to wrongdoing.—**E.P. DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St., Philamllife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

Who is civil society?

I HAVE always been concerned about the use of the term civil society. Who is civil society? The handful of "civilized" people who can go meet at five-star hotels for *kapihan*? The text brigade that showed up at Edsa? Would it have qualified as civil society if the Makati Business Club was not represented? Where does one apply to be a member of civil society?

I know lots of people who would be the first in line to sign up, including farmers' organizations that have been trying so hard to get media coverage for protection against landlords. And yes, the hundred or so people that rallied at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources after hearing about shredding machines being brought inside for a secretary who was trying to stay put. They would like to see their comments as headline news, too. Are those people not civil enough to be called civil society?

Anyone can misuse or appropriate the term "people" but everyone is used to that and are sufficiently wary. I would not blame those who use civil society to refer to themselves. These kinds of representations are in the toolbox of any advocate. But I would have thought the INQUIRER would be a lot more cautious.—**IPAT G. LUNA, Lipa City, Batangas**

Support for Winnie Monsod

THIS refers to the story of Jan. 29 announcing Bea Zobel's support of Winnie Monsod's candidacy for the mayoralty of Makati City.

What a splendid idea!

I eagerly anticipate an honest, dynamic and able leadership going by Professor Monsod's name, track record and personality. As a member of the academe and as a media personality, she bravely exposed wrongdoings without mincing words and opposed inanities without holding her punches. She was one of the personalities who tirelessly struggled to oust the Estrada regime and for that she deserves the people's support this coming May elections.—**JOSEPH FILAMOR, joshdoit@edsamail. com.ph**

Proper perspectives

IN A LATE evening television talk show last Jan. 22, human rights lawyer Rene Saguisag opined that what happened during Edsa II now places the military as a major power player in Philippine politics. He added that the People Power event puts the military as the true winner in the political game because it now gives the Armed Forces a say in terms of what group or person it wishes to support. My view is the opposite.

Saguisag simply missed the dynamics of the political process of Edsa II. It was the people, transcending all sectors of society, who initiated the dramatic political act of rejecting a leadership they believe is no longer fit to govern and the Armed Forces just followed.

The second People Power victory now places the AFP and the police force as secondary, although significant players in any future political challenge. This also places them on a more positive perspective of genuine professionalism and the principle of civilian rule over the military.—**NOEL MEDINA, vice president, Institute for Political and Electoral Reform, 262 15th Avenue, Barangay Silangan, Cubao, Quezon City**

Truth in Scriptures

THIS is to share the word of God from Proverbs, 29:4 which says: "When,the King is concerned with justice, the nation will be strong, but when he is only concerned with money, he will ruin his country."

Reflecting on these words in the light of what is happening in our country today, we realize how much truth can be found in the Holy Scriptures.

There is also truth in Proverbs, 29:2 which says: "Show me a righteous ruler and I will show you a happy people, show me a wicked ruler and I will show you a miserable people."—**AMADO F. ATAYAN, coordinator, St. Alfred Catholic Migrant Community, 19-21 Man Lai Road, Shatin N.T., Kowloon, Hong Kong**

Boundaries of inclusion

PEOPLE Power II brought about one beautiful thing in Philippine society: the gradual erosion of the boundaries of inclusion. This we should be very happy about.

Boundaries of inclusion are the barriers that exist between a people. They create ramifications and, to some extent, polarization within a state. In the Philippines, these boundaries are stark and definite with the business elite on one end and the ones below the poverty line on the other.

However, with the national uprising a couple weeks or so ago, these divisions were slowly erased. It was only in Edsa that we saw the elegant forms of the rich wallowing in the heat with the masses. People did not select whom to stand beside with. It did not matter whose sweaty arm touched you. Everyone was there for a binding purpose: to oust Erap. And at that very moment when the crowd sang, "Bayan Ko," in the wee hours of Jan. 17, everyone was equal. There was no rich and no poor. What was there was a raw expression of unity.

I pray that things would continue to be this way. I pray that as the People Power II fervor dies down, we will not go back to isolating ourselves from the rest of the Filipinos, may we be rich or poor. At that one beautiful moment that our social standing did not count, we saw a strong nation in the making. May we continue eroding the boundaries of inclusion.—**JUDITH IRIS KAYE S. PAGSANJAN, Kamia Residence Hall, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City**

Did Edsa II represent the nation?

MAY I contribute some insights on the relationship of the numbers at Edsa II and the total population of the Philippines.

We can return to Edsa I and assume that the number there was more or less a million. That this million represented the majority of the population was clearly indicated by the 76 percent approval of the 1986 Cory Constitution.

I hope this will put to rest the debate on the representation in Edsa II in relation to the total population of the country.—**ANTONIO AMANTE, 2370 Nacar St., San Andres, Manila**

Continuous hearings of rape charges

I SUPPORT the advocacy of Earl K. Wilkinson for "continuous hearings" on rape charges, particularly against foreign nationals in the Philippines. It would benefit both the complainant and respondent.

It's a pity that an innocent Australian national doing business here would be imprisoned for almost a year while court proceedings are ongoing. He faced fake rape charges and the motive was only to extract money from him.

Wesley Prentice has been acquitted of the charges by a Manila court. He has lost a lot of money and wants to pull out his businesses. Another investor lost, and about 20 Filipino employees will be out of work in this time of crisis.—**EMIL SY, Camella Homes, Bacoor, Cavite**

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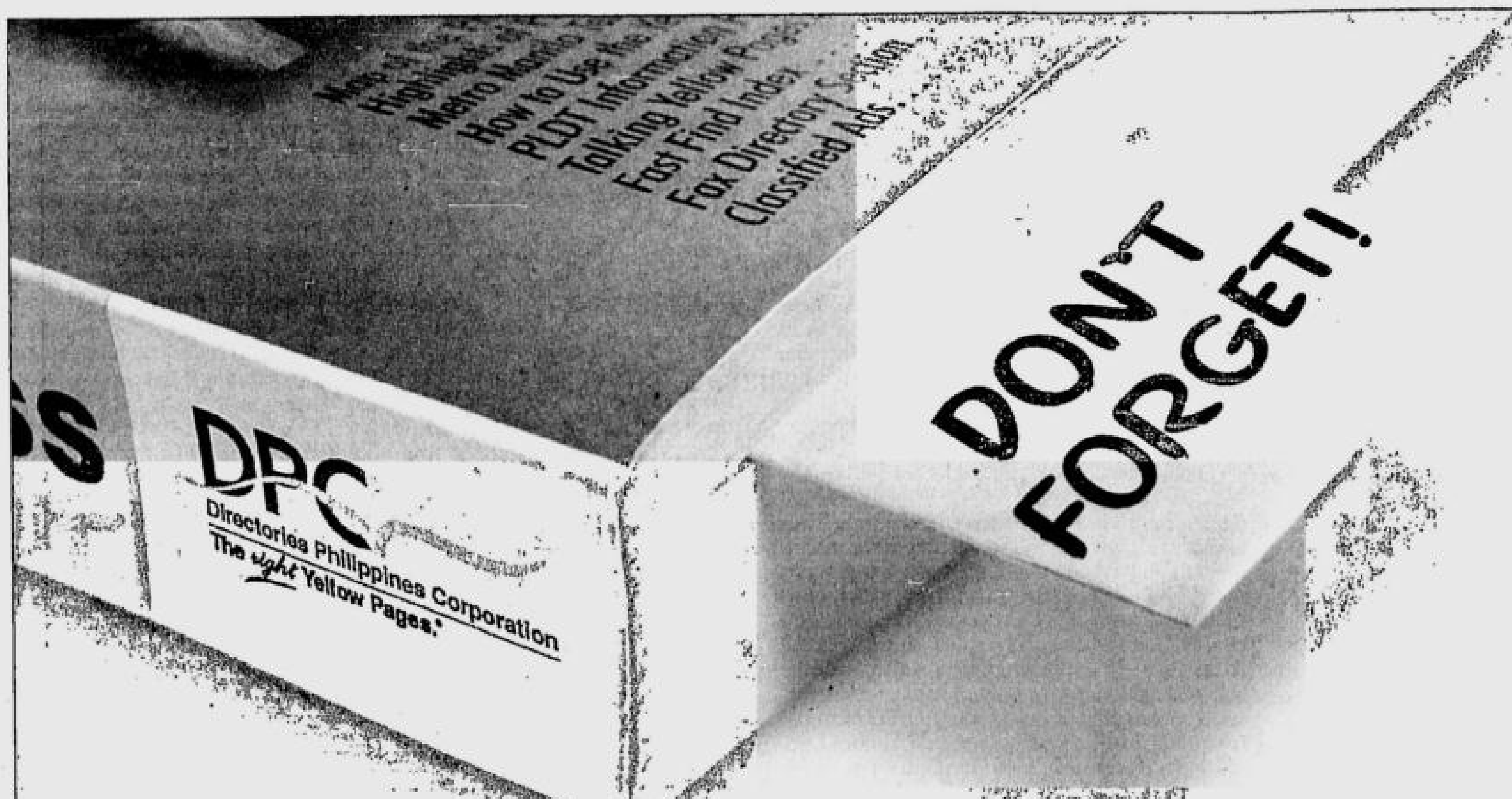

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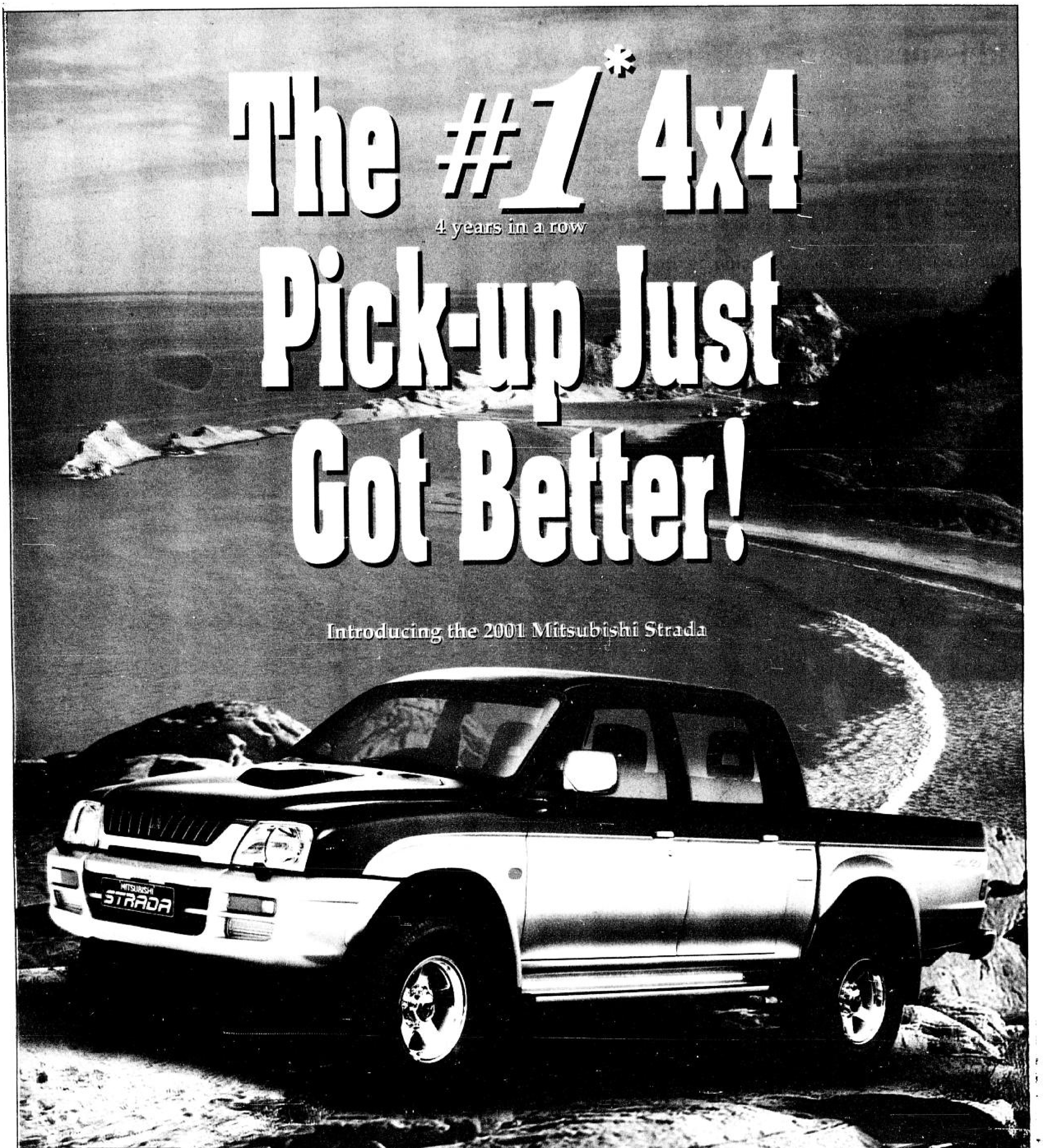

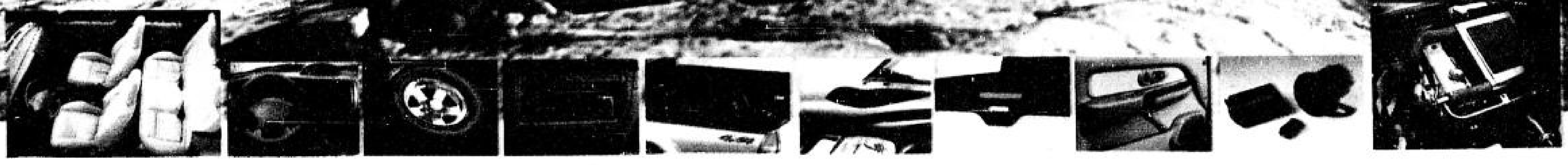

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Pro-Wahid protesters warn of bloody uprising

SURABAYA, Indonesia—Supporters of Indonesia's embattled head of state Abdurrahman Wahid occupied a ferry port on Tuesday and warned of a bloody uprising if the president's political opponents try to oust him for alleged corruption.

However, in Jakarta Wahid called for calm and criticized his followers for a series of violent protests in recent days.

"Why are these people destroying? They should resolve things through the democratic process," he said at the state palace.

"Trust us. Nothing (more) will happen."

In the latest protest, a crowd stopped ferries from traveling between Java and the nearby tourist island of Bali, said Zainuddin, the harbor master at Banyuwangi in Wahid's home province of East Java, where unrest has broken out in recent days. Like many Indonesians, Zainuddin only uses one name.

Police said hundreds of Wahid supporters carrying knives and sickles were already at the port and about 2,000 more were on their way from surrounding towns. The protesters later dispersed without incident.

Ali Maschan, the provincial head of 30 million-member Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia's largest Muslim organization which Wahid used to lead, said there would be bloodshed if the president was forced from office.

"There will be revenge and civil war," he said. "The people are angry."

However, Wahid said he had instructed the organization to order an immediate end to the violence.

"If that is not enough, I will give the order myself," Wahid said.

At towns in East Java, banners were strung above roads and shops, reading: "We are ready to spill our blood for Wahid." *AP*

GUS DUR
MUNDUR
GUS DUR

THOUSANDS of supporters of Indonesian President Adburrahman Wahid (pictured center) parade in Surabaya, East Java, Feb. 6. Indonesian legislators gave a report that allegedly links Wahid with two corruption scandals and were the basis of formal parliamentary censure last week. AP

REUTERS

'LIFE SAVER'

A seal "pretends" to give a trainer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation during a show at Sea World on the Queensland Gold Coast, Feb. 6. A record 5.2 million tourists is expected to flood Australia in 2001, reaping the reward from the unprecedented Olympic hype.

NY trial of 4 bombing suspects features ex-aide of Bin Laden

NEW YORK—The terrorism trial of four men accused of masterminding the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in East Africa will feature a former associate of exiled Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, the prosecution indicated Monday.

"You'll have the extraordinary opportunity to hear from a witness who is a sworn member of al-Qaeda (the base)," said assistant district attorney Paul Butler, presenting the case to 18 members of the jury.

"He'll tell you that he stole money from Bin Laden, was caught and went on the run," Butler said.

He said after fleeing from Bin Laden, the secret witness had approached the US government for cooperation and protection. He may appear in court as early as Tuesday.

"Listen to what he says about himself and the others," Butler urged the jurors.

The witness is known only as CS-1—despite effort by defense attorneys to find out his name.

The four men accused of carrying out the Aug. 7, 1998, bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which left 224 people dead, are facing a total of 308 charges.

If convicted, two of them—Saudi national Mohamed Rashid Daoud Al Owhali, 23, and Tanzanian Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 27—could face the death penalty. *AFP*

Israelis go to the polls, set to sweep Sharon to top

JERUSALEM—More than four million Israelis started voting Tuesday in a pivotal election set to bring the hawkish Ariel Sharon to power, marking a sharp shift to the right after the worst Israeli-Palestinian violence in years.

The prime ministerial ballot is widely regarded as a referendum on Middle East peace, with both Sharon and embattled incumbent Ehud Barak pledging to try to forge an accord with the Palestinians, although their approaches are poles apart.

Polling stations opened across the country at 7 a.m. and most will remain open until 10 p.m., with initial projections from exit polls due right after they close.

Israel decided to seal off the Palestinian territories on election day—a civic holiday—amid warnings of possible anti-Israeli attacks by militant groups.

In a stunning comeback for a man written off over the Lebanon war 18 years ago, the 72-year-old Sharon, nicknamed the "Bulldozer," is tipped to steamroll into power with a crushing win over Barak.

Final opinion polls published in the Israeli press on the eve of the election showed the hardline former general Sharon maintaining his massive double-digit lead over the 58-year-old Barak, both military men turned politicians.

It is the third election in just five years for Israelis but the first time in the nation's history that they have gone to the polls to choose a prime minister without a parallel parliamentary election.

And some commentators have warned that political mayhem could ensue, triggering general elections ahead of their due date in May 2003.

The election is widely regarded as a protest vote against the Labor leader after the collapse of peace talks and the explosion of violence more than four months ago rather than a ringing endorsement of the rival Likud party chief.

Israel's community of immigrants from the former Soviet Union, who make up some 18 percent of the electorate, and its Arab citizens are expected to desert Barak after helping him to a landslide victory over then right-wing premier Benjamin Netanyahu in May 1999.

Arab Israelis, who represent about 13 percent of the electorate, have threatened to boycott the poll. They are furious with Barak over the killing of 13 members of their community in the early days of the intifada. *AFP*

Fired employee kills 4, self day before detention

MELROSE PARK, Illinois—A man who was fired from a factory after he got caught stealing from his employer forced his way into the engine plant and opened fire one day before he was to report to prison. He killed five people, including himself, and wounded four others.

William D. Baker, 66, showed up at the plant in suburban Chicago Monday with an arsenal of weapons in a golf bag and made his way through the vast building, blasting away with an AK-47 assault rifle, police said.

Employees scattered in terror during the rampage that lasted about 10 to 15 minutes at the plant, run by Navistar International, a major truck and engine maker.

Baker shot seven people, three of them fatally, in an engineering area, then went into an office, where he killed one more person and then shot himself, police said.

Baker had been scheduled to surrender Tuesday to serve a five-month federal sentence for conspiracy to commit theft from an interstate shipment. He pleaded guilty in June, six years after he was fired.

Martin Reutimann, a 24-year-old engineer, was sitting at his desk when he heard gunfire about 10 a.m.

"I heard somebody yell, 'There's a guy in the center aisle with a gun!'" Reutimann said, referring to the long hallway where engines are tested. Reutimann said he saw people running past him, then fled and called the police.

Police said Baker showed up at the plant with his weapons. When a security guard tried to stop him, Baker put a .38-caliber revolver to her side and forced his way into the plant, police said. *AP*

Adopted Russian kids killed in US

NEW YORK—The most tragic international adoption cases end in death. Two children adopted from Russia have been killed and their parents held responsible:

David Alexander Polreis, age 2 years and 10 months, died in a Greeley, Colorado, hospital in February 1996, his body covered in bruises.

He had been adopted six months before from an orphanage in Tula, a dreary industrial city three hours south of Moscow. In America, he urinated on people and threw his feces against walls. He spit in the sleeping face of his brother, Isaac, who had been adopted in Colorado. He bit his new mother's finger to the bone. He was diagnosed with reactive attachment disorder.

His mother, Renee Polreis, used a novel legal defense. She claimed David beat himself to death with a wooden spoon in a fit of rage. The jury didn't believe her, and she was sentenced to 22 years in prison. Last year, Weld County District Judge Roger Klein reduced her sentence to 18 years, saying "any additional time would only be vindictive."

The mother, Klein ruled, still refused to admit killing the boy. "It is this court's conclusion that this failure to admit responsibility is not that the defendant has a criminal mind, but that the defendant is in substantial denial," the judge wrote.

Viktor Alexander Matthey, 7, was adopted from Russia in December 1999 with his 4-year-old twin brothers. He died in New Jersey last Halloween, two days after medics responded to a 911 call that the boy was in cardiac arrest.

Pending completion of a homicide investigation, his adoptive parents, Robert and Brenda Matthey of Union Township, have been charged with endangering the welfare of a child.

Doctors noted 40 injuries, including scratches, open wounds and bruises, and measured the boy's body temperature at 83 degrees.

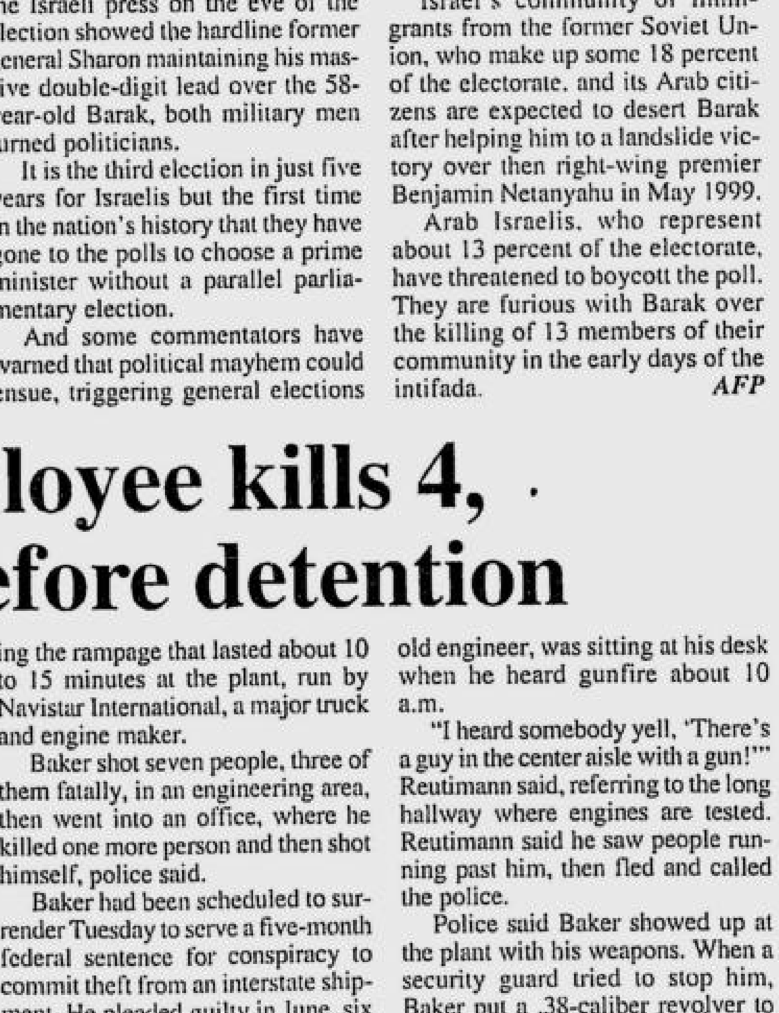
Prosecutors say Viktor was forced to sleep in an unheated cellar on nights when temperatures reached the 30s.

Lawyers for the parents say the boy's injuries were self-inflicted. Viktor exhibited RAD-like symptoms, but it is unclear if he had been diagnosed. He suffered sleep disorders, threw himself down stairs and banged his head against walls, the lawyers said.

Viktor's brothers and the Mattheys' four biological children have been placed in state custody.

Attempt to sell child

There are other criminal cases. In August, 43-year-old Denise Kaye Thomas of Littleton, Colorado, was sentenced to a year of unsupervised probation after being arrested for trying to sell her Russian daughter on the Internet. *AP*



RENEE Polaris meets with her husband Dave after a court session at the Weld County courthouse in Greely, Colorado, in this July 1997 file photo. Renee is accused of beating her 2-year-old adopted son David to death. AP

1st Chinese tourists arrive on Taiwan isle

KINMEN, Taiwan—A boat from rival China cruised to this tiny Taiwanese island Tuesday, bringing the first group of Chinese tourists authorized to make the short voyage from the mainland.

The ferry's arrival could signal that Beijing, despite early reluctance, is willing to go along with Taiwan's new policy of allowing limited trade and shipping links between its outlying islands and China.

If the new ties flourish, they could help ease decades of hostilities across the Taiwan Strait, one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949, and a war between them could quickly involve the United States, Taiwan's closest friend.

Greeted by crackling fireworks and children dancing in red, yellow and blue satin lion costumes, the Chinese passengers waved and snapped photos from the deck of the boat.

The ship carried about 90 passengers from China's southern port city of Xiamen, about 1.8 km away from Kinmen. Many of the tourists were born on Kinmen but moved to China before the civil war and have been unable to return to visit relatives. Their three-day trip will include a tour of the island, banquets and a visit to ancestral graves.

Tourist Wang Juanzhen, 76, wanted to see a sister, cousins and grandchildren in Kinmen. She has not visited them since leaving the island five decades ago.

"When we went there (to China), life in Kinmen was very hard. We had no food so my father took us to Xiamen," Wang told reporters.

The woman's cousin, Wang Hsiu-huang, 56, greeted her Chinese relative with a hug and held back tears as she held hands with her. The Taiwanese woman said, "I'm so very happy. My cousins have not been back for more than 50 years."

Without negotiating with China, Taiwan on Jan. 1 began allowing direct shipping ties between its outlying islands and the mainland—a policy known as the "mini links." Taiwan had been wary about opening up transportation ties because of security concerns.

Although the Taiwanese trumpeted the new ties as a major goodwill gesture, Beijing dismissed them as an excuse to stall on one of China's key demands: ending the ban on direct trade and transportation ties—known as the "big links"—between the mainland and the main island of Taiwan. The 130-km-wide Taiwan Strait separates the two sides. *AP*

Sirven swallowed phone chip while being arrested

PARIS—French businessman Alfred Sirven, wanted in connection with a huge corruption scandal in France, swallowed the chip of his portable telephone as he was being arrested in Manila, French police said Tuesday.

A police official said that the 74-year-old former number two at oil giant Elf Aquitaine was speaking on his phone when Philippine police burst into his villa south of Manila.

"He saw them coming, opened his portable, removed the SIM card, bit into it and then swallowed it," the official said.

The SIM card would have allowed investigators to trace Sirven's phone calls.

He was arrested after nearly four years on the run and was quickly put on a plane to Frankfurt, where he was detained on his arrival.

Sirven later Tuesday was due to be extradited to France, where he is considered a key figure in the corruption trial of former foreign minister Roland Dumas and his ex-mistress Christine Deviers-Joncour.

Sirven himself is a defendant in the case, along with four others, and was being tried in abstentia.

The trial has been adjourned until Wednesday, when Sirven is due to appear in court. *AFP*

MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER

A WORLD-CLASS HOSPITAL

Awarded dual certification ISO 9002 / EN 46002

TUV Product Service Asia Pacific presents the ISO 9002 and EN 46002 certifications' to the Makati Medical Center directors and members of the advisory committee. From left: Doctors Ariston G. Bautista; Roberto K. Macasaet; Jaime O. Sevilla; MMC President and Medical Director Raul G. Fores; TUV-PS General Manager and Lead AuditorJocelyn Delos Reyes; Commissioners Jack Arroyo and Aurora Arnaez; Doctors Vicente Q. Arguelles and Edmundo V. Villacorta.

Dr. Raul G. Fores put it succintly: "Truly, it's a special gift from God. We worked to secure our International Organization for Standardization (ISO) which certifies us as a world-class hospital, and that we belong to the top 30 medical facilities in the world."

But the soft-spoken physician waxed philosophical about the latest honors bestowed to Makati Medical Center. The dual certifications garnered by Makati Med—ISO 9002 and European Norm (EN) 46002—extend beyond quality management system and reach out to the higher level of medical practice.

Says the MMC president and medical director: "Now we ask ourselves. Is it because we have good surgeons, cardiologists, anesthesiologists? No, it's because we treat all our patients well regardless of their stations in life. We have never said 'No' to the poorest of the poor."

From 1972 to September 2000, MMC's charity program had attended to and treated 143,132 in-patients and 1,615,550 out-patients.

Total quality, Fores maintains, is engraved in the hearts and minds of MMC's staff—from the janitor to top-level management.

First in Asia

Makati Medical Center is the first in Asia to receive the EN 46002 and with the ISO 9002 certification, MMC became the only hospital in the region to hold a dual certification from the International Organization for Standardization.

ISO 9002 is the baseline standard for manufacturing and service industries, and if a company has EN 46002 to complement ISO 9002, it means the critical processes of infection control, hygiene and sanitation and sterilization were looked into, explains Jocelyn Delos Reyes, general manager and lead auditor of TUV Product Service Asia Pacific.

MMC was granted an ISO 9002 in comprehensive healthcare, earning, in the process, the distinction as the first medical facility in the Philippines to achieve such an award.

TUV Product, one of ISO's certifying bodies, was tasked to evaluate MMC's operations and facilities. The 30-year-old hospital underwent a program of documentation and a series of internal audits against the ISO standard.

The certificate is awarded by the ISO to a firm that passes standards in areas of compliance, including management responsibility, quality system, process control, quality records, training and servicing.

Based in Geneva, Switzerland, ISO is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from some 130 countries. A non-governmental organization established in 1947, ISO's mission is to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services.

World-class service

The group also develops cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological and economic activity.

With the certification, hospital patients can be more assured of world-class medical service as more people have become aware of the value that the ISO mark of excellence represents.

MMC has been known to provide the best and most efficient health care that can compare with those found in renowned hospitals abroad through the acquisition of the latest equipment and training of competent and skilled medical personnel.

EN 46002 is the certification issued by the ISO to the health services sector. TUV Product Service, one of the oldest (130 years) and the largest certifying bodies in the Asia-Pacific Region, has certified over 26,000 companies worldwide and it is known for certifications of medical device products and pharmaceuticals.

Guided by its mission to administer medical care of the highest order, MMC strived and secured the dual ISO certification.

''Unlike manufacturing companies which need an ISO accreditation to participate in global trade, we don't need an ISO accreditation to participate in global trade. We don't need the quality certificate to deliver patient care of the highest order. As the country's premier medical institution, MMC is known for its tradition of excellence," Fores explains.

"We don't need the quality certificate to export or do business," he adds. "We have to do this because it completes our Total Quality Management Program, a systematic approach we crafted to render quality patient care."

As the system requires rigid compliance with rules and procedures as well as strict adherence to quality standards, the road to ISO certification was paved with many challenges. The hard work paid off after two years when the hospital was awarded the dual quality certificate last month.

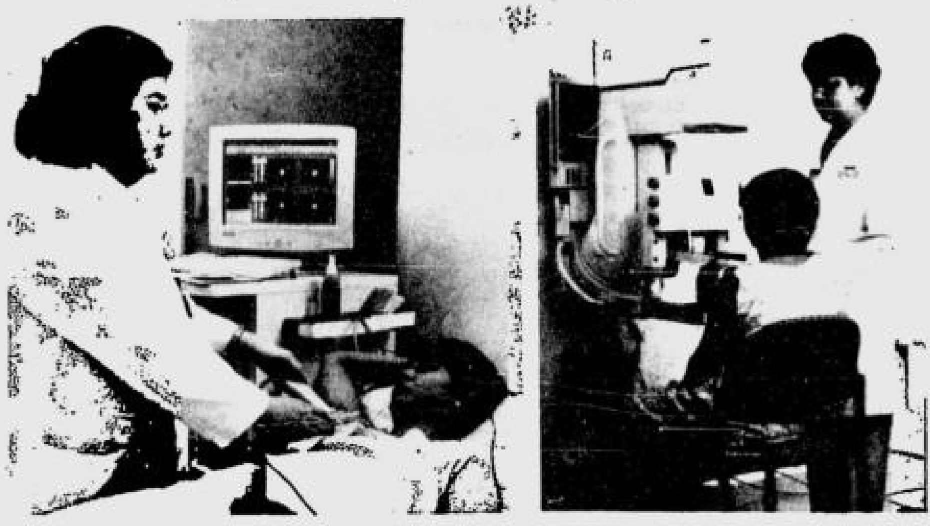
Founding Fathers' vision

After the hospital embarked on its quest for quality, immediate changes were observed from feedback of patients and other customers, including doctors and relatives of patients.

Ninety-nine percent of the patients reported that MMC, a 600-bed tertiary hospital, met or exceeded their expectations.

After decades of selfless service, the "Hospital with a Heart" remains firmly committed to the vision of its Founding Fathers, to provide the best health care using the latest medical technology available for patients regardless of wealth, race or creed.

The Breast Clinic: A one-stop facility for today's women



Two of the five highly computerized and digital machines used in the clinic are the Siemens TransScan 2000 and Siemens Mammomat 3000.

According to the Philippine Cancer Society, 3,000 women die of breast cancer and 9,300 new incidences are reported in the country every year.

Breast cancer being the leading cause of death in females has struck fear in the hearts of Filipino women. Besides the dreaded disease, the common belief of a painful mammogram procedure discourages Filipinas from seeking breast examination.

Makati Medical Center's Breast Clinic hopes to put an end to all of these apprehensions. From the interior design to the painless breast scanner, the clinic, inaugurated September 1, 2000 is a first in the country.

The best feature of the clinic is that it offers complete services. Dr. Angela Umali-Crisostomo, its Department Head, points out the clinic's quality of service. "I believe this is the only clinic in the Philippines that offers comprehensive services. Another is that at all times, a radiologist is in attendance. Because we are here all the time, when a patient comes in for a mammogram, an initial review or evaluation is immediately done. Should she need further evaluation by ultrasound, it's done right away. So there is no need for her to come back as evaluation is done in one sitting, " she explains.

Designed for women

A clinic designed for women—the pink and lavender wallpaper, piped-in soothing music, beautiful flower arrangements and an all-women staff erase mental images of gray walls and disinfectants commonly associated with hospitals.

The Breast Clinic has three mammogram units and two ultrasound equipment that are digital and highly automated. The Siemens Mammomat 3000 produces optimal images increasing diagnostic quality for early diagnosis of breast cancer. An innovative electrical impedance scanning system is non-invasive done only in addition to the mammogram. The Siemens TransScan TS2000 is the only one in the Far East and one of 12 in the world. It gives doctors better latitude in assessing which lesions and areas of suspicion are likely to be cancerous or benign. This facilitates early diagnosis and treatment and reduces the number of patients referred for biopsies. The Siemens Sonoline Elegra is a powerful high definition digital ultrasound system with color doppler capability that features Siescape, a composite image of multiple 2-D scans.

Regular breast examination

Early detection is the key to breast cancer treatment, which is why it is important for women to have regular breast examination. This special clinic now gives them a better choice. With the ISO 9002 and EN 46002 stamp of excellence, patients can be assured of the MMC Breast Clinic's quality service because here in the "Hospital with a Heart," only the most technologically advanced machines, intensively trained technicians and the best doctors will do.

Removing kidney stones without surgical incisions is now possible with the Siemens Modularis Uro Plus, a modular system covering diagnostic and therapeutic urology applications. It also treats patients with prostate ailments.

Networking with the Best Hospitals in the World---MMC pioneered real-time multi-site videoconferencing in collaboration with world-class hospitals such as the Standford Medical Center, University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Medical Center, Singapore General Hospital and Chinese University Hospital in Hong Kong. These conferences are not exclusive to MMC doctors but are open to other doctors from different hospitals. With the ISO and EN certifications, MMC will now network with the 29 other leading hospitals in the world.

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0066, Series of 2001

446 'hot spots' in Bicol under Comelec watch

LEGAZPI CITY—The Commission on Elections on Monday ordered police and military personnel, as their deputized agents, to closely monitor 446 barangays in Bicol which were considered probable election hot spots.

Col. Dante Bonifacio, head of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade commander, reported in a meeting at Camp Gen. Simeon Ola, police regional headquarters, here that communist rebels were active in these villages.

The villages included 122 in Masbate, 98 in Sorsogon, 92 in Catanduanes, 52 in Camarines Sur, 54 in Albay, and 28 in Camarines Norte. The total number represents over 15 percent of all barangays in the region.

Bonifacio said the reported breakdown of peace and order in these areas was due to the deactivation of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgu) and the pullout of two Army battalions from Bicol for a new assignment in Mindanao.

He said that 90 illegal firearms were confiscated under "Oplan Bakal" and 80 persons had been charged before the courts during the 1998 elections.

Comelec regional director Zacarias Zaragosa said that for the coming May elections, his office would be particularly concerned with the unauthorized carrying of firearms, politically motivated acts of violence affecting the registration of voters and candidates, and other events affecting the election process.

Zaragosa said the 1998 elections were the most peaceful conducted so far in Bicol, with 45 incidents of poll-related violence.

Timely police and military intervention reduced cases of bloodshed between warring political clans and those arising from rebel-initiated violence, he stressed.

He pointed out that the Comelec considered Masbate, Catanduanes and Camarines Norte as election tinderboxes because of brewing political tensions in the provinces.

In Masbate, the politically motivated killings of former Rep. Tito Espinosa and Jolly Fernandez were seen as far from being settled.

So was the murder of Camarines Norte Gov. Rolly Padilla during the 1995 election campaign.

Residents of Catanduanes fear the return of the violent elections of the '60s as the rival camps of Gov. Hector Sanchez and Rep. Leandro Verceles Jr., who are expected to join the gubernatorial race. The two politicians are rarely seen without armed bodyguards.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., police regional director, said public support for the government's peace and order campaign was needed in ending election violence.

Navarro called on the politicians to stop patronizing the communist New People's Army by rejecting their permits to campaign.

As early as July last year, Sotero Llamas, former NPA commander in Bicol and consultant of the communist-led National Democratic Front, said the rebel movement would make a noticeable effect on the outcome of the May polls.

Llamas said the rebels would actively campaign for "pro-people" candidates and exact "revolutionary taxes" through campaign permits to be charged candidates who would like to enter areas under their control.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Exec doubts NPC support for GMA

DIGOS CITY—The expression of support by the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) for the Macapagal administration is very doubtful, according to a top Lakas official here.

Last week, the NPC, headed by tycoon and ousted President Joseph Estrada's patron, Eduardo Cojuangco, said in a resolution that it would actively collaborate with all branches of the government.

Victoriano Cadungog, secretary general of Lakas in Davao del Sur, said the resolution was highly suspicious because it came in the wake of government efforts to regain control of Cojuangco's sequestered assets in several companies, including San Miguel Corp.

"Under President Estrada, Cojuangco regained control of these assets. He might have thought that by declaring support for President Arroyo, he can still hold on to these assets," Cadungog said.

"In Davao del Sur, for example, Cojuangco might pour campaign funds to ensure that his preferred candidates will win in the May 14 elections," he said.

Topping the list of NPC candidates is Renerio Llanos, who is expected to run for governor. He is the brother of incumbent governor, Rogelio.

Cojuangco has several landholdings in Davao del Sur, most of which are the subject of disputes involving farmers who have been recognized as beneficiaries of the government's land reform program.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

ROUNDUP

Investors, farmers tie up

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A group of Canada-based investors arrived here to discuss with farmers a joint food production venture. Angel Mallonga, president of ABM Design International based in Vancouver, said his group would tap 3,000 members of the Cagayan Farmers Cooperative for the production of *tilapia*, *bangus*, potatoes and cutflowers. Mallonga said the consortium would provide technology and capital, and coordinate the marketing of the farmers' produce.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

38 convicts transferred

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least 38 convicts from the Pagadian Reformatory Center were transferred to the San Ramon Prisons and Penal Farm here on Sunday. The convicts arrived Sunday on board the MV Kristel Jane. They were originally detained in various jails in Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Norte and Misamis Occidental. Four of the prisoners had life sentences, said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Morante, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology director.

Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau

29 families evacuate

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—At least 29 families in a remote village in Maasin, Sarangani, fled after unidentified armed men set their houses on fire on Friday. Hermelo Latoja, head of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council, said 18 houses in Sitio Kulombong in Barangay Lumasal were razed, forcing residents to flee to nearby Barangay Numo. Vice Gov. Mike Escobar has ordered police to track down the armed men. Latoja on Saturday distributed relief goods to the victims.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Ambush try foiled

COTABATO CITY—Vice Mayor Datu Andal Ampatuan of Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao, escaped an ambush attempt by armed men in Talayan town last week. Ampatuan said he was visiting a relative when residents told him that they had persuaded the armed men to leave their strike positions along the highway near Barangay Tambunan. Hundreds of people reportedly trooped to the area where the vice mayor's convoy was supposed to be attacked and convinced the armed men to withdraw.

Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau

P100M razed in fire

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—At least P100 million worth of equipment and rubber materials were destroyed in a five-hour fire that gutted a rubber company here Friday, police said. No one was reported injured. Investigators said arsonists could have started the fire at the rubber compounding department of KTP Shoe Expo Manufacturing Co., owned by Antonio Tan. The blaze spread to two nearby buildings.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Luzon, particularly over extreme northern and southern sections, will have mostly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 31° Lo 21°	**Baguio** HI 25° Lo 14°	**Tuguegarao** HI 31° Lo 21°	**Laoag** HI 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone HI 30° Lo 21°	**Tagaytay** HI 29° Lo 18°	**Legazpi** HI 30° Lo 25°	**Calapan** HI 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 31° Lo 24°	**Roxas** HI 31° Lo 26°	**Cebu** HI 31° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 31° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 23°	**Zamboanga** HI 32° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 32° Lo 22°	**Davao** HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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2 killed, 1 injured in grenade explosion

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Authorities here have expressed alarm over the possible presence of more World War II-vintage grenades after one of them exploded in a jeepney parked in a public terminal.

The blast killed two persons, injured another and shocked passersby and bystanders on Malvar Street on Thursday last week.

Police identified the fatalities as Moses Padul, 25, of Baltan Street, this city, and conductor of the jeep bound for Barangays Luzviminda and Mangingisda; and Jimmy Germano, 34, of Barangay Mangingisda.

Padul died on the spot after the grenade he was toying with exploded inside another jeep where Germano was conductor.

Injured was Germano's driver, Mervin Baita, 45, also of Barangay Mangingisda. He managed to jump out of the vehicle before the grenade exploded but he suffered bruises in the arms.

A police report showed that the grenade was of a "vintage" fragmentation type that was used during World War II. An improvised pin had secured the grenade.

Police officer Jesus Gascon said the incident was the third involving such kind of weapon to have occurred in the city since 1981.

The first incident occurred in 1981 near Salcedo Building along Rizal Avenue and the second happened along Manalo Street when somebody threw a grenade at the office of a construction firm.

An explosion also hit the Holy Trinity College in 1995 when a grenade blew up accidentally inside a high school student's bag. *Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Strike alarms Clark investors

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The weeklong strike at Yokohama Tire Philippines Inc. has triggered fears among this zone's nine major foreign investors.

The investors said they were rethinking their expansion plans and were inclined to transfer operations to China or Taiwan where disputes are "handled well."

The strike at Yokohama, one of the largest tire makers in the world, has proven to be "our worst nightmare," the Foreign Industrial Locators Association in Clark (Filac) said in a letter dated Feb. 1 to Rogelio Singson, president and chief executive officer of Clark Development Corp.

The group told Singson that the investors had enough of problems, such as the "lack of efficient basic utilities, varying and inconsistent policies, graft and corruption" since the day they decided to invest and locate in Clark.

Officials of L & K Industries Philippines, Nanox Philippines, Amertron, Fuji Plastics, SMK Electronics Philippines, Sampo Technology, Poongsan Electronics, Philippine Shin-Ei and the Clark Premiere Industrial Park—all major exporters of electronics products--signed the letter.

The strike, according to Filac, threatened to slow down Yokohama's production and put some 500 workers out of job.

"A total shutdown of its facility here remains an option," Filac said in the letter it gave to local journalists Friday.

Voting 182-0, Yokohama workers agreed to go on strike on Jan. 29 when negotiations between the Yokohama Employees Union and management bogged down.

Union spokesperson Jerry Javier said the strike was meant to compel management to withdraw its plan to suspend and dismiss some 170 workers who had joined "People Power II" rallies that led to the ouster of Joseph Estrada from the presidency.

"Our participation in People Power II rallies on Edsa and in Mendiola is a patriotic duty," Javier said.

"The rallies were also a part of our struggle against the oppressive policies and programs being implemented by Yokohama in line with the Estrada administration's no-union, no-strike policy."

Ronald Celestino, Yohohama production manager, said the protest actions had cut the company's work time by eight hours and its daily production output of 7,000 tires by almost half.

The strike also paralyzed production, he added.

Celestino said management only issued notices demanding explanations for absences without leave or abandonment of work.

Filac said it was "very concerned" by these developments.

"Way back (in) early 1990s, when all investors were looking at economic zones in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) area, we were lured by CDC's assurance that we won't be encountering any form of labor problems," Filac said.

While it clarified that it was not "against the airing of grievances of the labor sector," the group told Singson that the Yokohama dispute should be handled promptly and legally.

"Inaction would lead to an aggravation of the situation while a mishandling may further instigate, instead of pacifying parties concerned," it said.

Since Tuesday, Singson had been urging the management and the union to resume negotiations.

No violence has erupted at the picket lines, although Javier said the situation had been tense due to the presence of about 50 policemen from CDC and Angeles City.

The union urged Singson and government labor officials to take the side of workers, saying the Constitution and labor laws guarantee rights to form unions, express grievances and to strike. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Silliman marine experts score dolphin shows

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Silliman University Marine Laboratory (SUML) has joined the growing clamor against the operation of the Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium (SBME) that, among others, features dolphin and false killer whale shows.

Dr. Hilconida Calumpong, SUML director, said the SBME's operation ran directly against existing marine mammal protection policies in the country.

She pointed out that the SBME project was not about ecotourism but for business.

The SUML is at the forefront of marine conservation projects here and throughout the country. It is recognized by the United States Agency for International Development as a "center for excellence" in coastal resources management.

Calumpong said the SBME was out of step with both Philippine policy and world trends.

"It is a throwback to three decades ago. It is an outdated school of thought, which is being dumped on the unsuspecting Filipino consumer," she said.

She expressed doubt on the SBME's capacity to implement a genuine conservation program, because (its) approach is "species-based, not habitat-based. No one does this anymore."

The opposition to the SBME project was initiated by animal activists from non-government organizations and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Marine Mammal Conservation.

Tim Desmond, SBME president and chief executive officer, had earlier told reporters that the captive display helps in protecting individual animal welfare, conserving the environment, and protecting biological diversity.

Breeding the animals in captivity can stop the collection of these from the wild, he had said.

The fusion of entertainment and education via the park will help people appreciate the need to protect the environment, Desmond had said.

Calumpong branded the SBME's captive breeding program a "joke" and that it was not justified because it was breeding common species.

As a research program, the SBME has an extensive array of studies, all of which are focused only on maintaining the animals there and keeping the show alive, he said.

"It has not looked at the Subic Bay habitat as a whole, nor has it even made the very basic step of surveying the area for marine mammals," she said.

Calumpong questioned the non-involvement of the community in the supposed conservation efforts. "Despite the fact that the project proponents have hired 50 people locally, the SBME has not empowered the communities around Subic Bay." *Alex Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Officials welcome review of Erap EO

DIGOS CITY—Local government officials hailed President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to review a controversial executive order issued by her predecessor in 1999.

City administrator Jose Toong said EO No. 190, which was issued by then President Joseph Estrada, had caused a lot of noise among the local executives who questioned it before the Supreme Court.

The order directs the Department of Budget and Management to remit Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) funds to national line agencies instead of giving these directly to the local government units.

"This is very unfair because it seems we are given money but that we are not allowed to spend it," Toong said.

Most LGUs depend on the IRA for local projects and other expenditures.

This city, for example, is set to receive an IRA of more than P200 million after it was converted from a municipality.

Toong said if the EO is scrapped as what Ms Macapagal had surmised in Cebu City during a visit on Saturday, the LGUs would be able to identify and fund more development projects.

On EO 189, which directs LGUs to submit annual investment plans, Toong said the Digos City government would readily comply.

"We don't have any problem with that. Only with the other order," he said.

Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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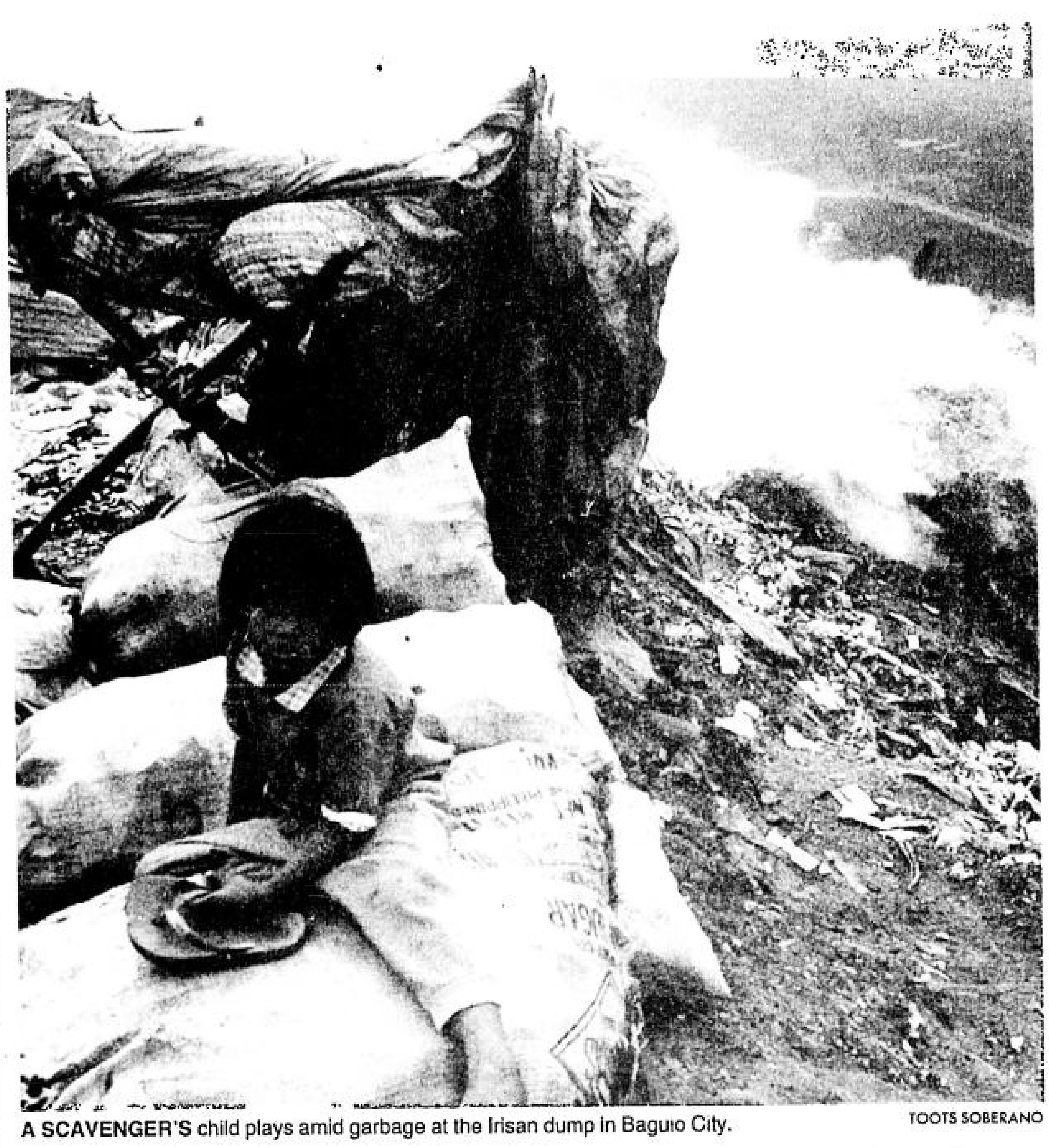
INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ▣ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Baguio's Payatas

BY AVIGAIL OLARTE
Baguio City

IT was Monday. A typical day for sifting plastics, cartons, cans, bottles and every recyclable material available for scavengers at the Irisan dump, Baguio City's Payatas.



A SCAVENGER'S child plays amid garbage at the Irisan dump in Baguio City. TOOTS SOBERANO

At dawn, as dump trucks whir through Irisan's roads to unload the city's garbage, human activity begins at the village.

Armed with headlights, soot-stained baskets and scythe-like weapons, scavengers scamper for positions on Irisan's mountainsides to wait for the "goodies" that the trucks would unload.

The scene has similarities in Payatas; the dumping ground of Quezon City trash. The area was closed temporarily after scores of people were killed when an avalanche of garbage crashed over a community of scavenging families in July last year.

But with the city's ambitious plan to build a multimillion-peso composting plant soon at the site, a number of scavengers dread the day when they will be forced to leave and abandon scavenging—their very life—altogether.

Installing the composting plant remains as the most viable option for the city to take in the face of growing waste disposal problems affecting public health and the environment.

The existing dump, which covers five hectares of land at Purok 18 in Barangay Irisan, increasingly threatens the health of some 5,000 residents in the area, the 1,000 people living at the dump and those in nearby Barangay Tadiangan in Tuba, Benguet.

Since the dump was opened in 1974, indiscriminate throwing of waste, burning, fly infestation, proliferation of wind-blown litter and uncontrolled generation of leachate (garbage juice) have become the main problems of the city government.

People living near the dump have grown overly alarmed by the foul air coming from burning garbage that invades their homes every day. They said they had experienced difficulty in breathing, headache, dizziness and fatigue.

Fear of acquiring respiratory and other airborne diseases has sent the families into panic.

Smelly, oily soot can be found on freshly washed clothes hung overnight. Concern has been raised over the risk of poisoning due to seepage of leachate, which contains disease-producing microorganisms, in groundwater and nearby waterways like a spring in Tuba, some 600 meters from the dumping area.

For the past year, residents in Irisan and Tadiangan have campaigned for the closure of the dump and have pressured city officials to come up with an alternative, more sanitary means of dumping solid waste.

Incineration

Incineration was the first means of waste disposal used in Baguio in the late 1950s. Before this, people burned their garbage in backyards, threw these in compost pits or dumped them in rivers and creeks.

The city's incinerator at the South Sanitary Camp was closed in 1976 because it could no longer contain the daily volume of garbage. Residents also started to fear for their health.

Garbage was instead dumped at Irisan.

In 1994, the World Bank offered to help operate a landfill, but the proposal was rejected because of potential environmental hazards.

In 1995, the city's general services office (GSO) asked for a five-hectare piece of land at the Baguio Dairy Farms on which to build a composting plant. However, the city was not able to raise enough funds for the P2-million project.

A team of French consultants arrived in 1997 and offered the use of landfills for the BLIST (Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan and Tuba) area. The municipal government of Itogon, the host of the landfills, rejected the project.

The GSO tried a waste segregation scheme to save more recyclable materials and reduce solid waste pollution. But barangay officials found it hard to persuade residents to adopt the scheme.

Compost plant

In 1999, the social fund of then President Joseph Estrada was made available for waste disposal projects. By December that year, a P2.5-million fund for the composting plant project was granted to the city.

Assisted by the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, the project would fence off 3.8 hectares of land for plant facilities and for the proposed recycling center.

At least 10 trucks head for Irisan on double shifts to unload a total of 175 metric tons (MT) a day.

The GSO currently services 125 barangays (four barangays have yet to be covered). The volume of solid wastes collected daily averaged 147.6 MT of garbage from households, 21.6 MT of market waste, 4.9 MT of commercial and office wastes, and 1.02 MT of other wastes from special collections.

Twenty-eight percept of the daily collection consists of putrid vegetables. The rest are paper, plastics, metals, glass, ceramics, textile, rubber and leather.

Romeo Concio, GSO officer, said the composting plant aimed at a more sanitary way of waste sorting. A truck would dump trash in an indoor sorting area and garbage would be piled on conveyer belts where workers sorted out recyclable materials by hand.

Finer materials would be placed in a container, to be treated with chemicals within a 30-day decomposition process.

Compost fertilizer, the plant's product, would be sold for P120 for every 50-kilo sack.

Scavengers' plight

Concio said a 25-percent recovery rate (turned into compost) was expected from the total volume of trash hauled per batch. With a 10-15 percent yearly increase in waste generation and with a higher projected recovery rate, the operation would have a daily gross income of P31,920 to P33,600, he said.

The city government hopes that the plant, with its environmental safety measures, would finally put an end to unsanitary dumping, scavenging and burning, Concio said.

"With more tourist arrivals expected and students flocking to our universities, the Irisan dump will soon be unable to contain the trash. *Baka matulad yan sa* Payatas (It might result in tragedy like that in Payatas)," Concio warned.

In 1994, the city was reported to have one of the most active scavenger groups in the Philippines. From a handful of scavengers in the early 1990s, around 300 of them now compete for trash and have built their homes at the Irisan dump.

Even children share their parents' enthusiasm in sorting garbage amid the smoke and stench. Most of them, enticed by the earnings from picking trash, prefer to scavenge than go to the school.

Lino Llaño, 63, who has been working in the dump since 1974, placed earnings at P1,000 to P3,000 per month.

"There are too many of us here, that's why income is low. A number of us work until dawn just to have money," he said in Ilocano.

Tatang, as Llaño is called in the dump, left the rigors of farm work in La Union for a new life in Irisan. He was able to raise seven children (three of whom had finished high school) with scavenging as his sole source of income.

"I hope people would not ridicule us because we subsist on garbage. We have an honest living, we do not acquire money through evil means," he said.

Not just swapping ideas on garbage

IN 1998, a group of local government representatives from the Philippines went to the United States for a two-week work-study tour of its different landfills and waste management facilities.

The group, which included Mayor Mary Jane Ortega of San Fernando City in La Union, was invited by the United States Assistance for International Development and the American Consulting Engineers Council, and was hosted by the Solid Waste Association of North America (Swana).

Swana, then a 37-year-old nongovernment organization, became Ortega's inspiration in organizing the Solid Waste Association of the Philippines (SWAPP) in 1999.

The SWAPP, which advocated the "swapping (of) ideas and good practices on municipal solid waste management," is the first of its kind in the country and the Asia-Pacific region.

It now has over 150 members composed of LGUs, corporations, NGOs, professionals and students. It has a full-time executive director, Lizette Cardenas, who holds office at the Valero Plaza Building in Makati City.

Trainings

All officers, including Ortega who is the chair, and members of the technical working group are volunteers.

The association has since conducted various training courses in solid waste management for LGU representatives from different parts of the country. The courses also involved sharing of the best practices being applied in selected cities and municipalities.

"For instance, for recycling, we showcase Marilao (Bulacan); for composting, Sta. Maria (Bulacan); for collection, Olongapo and Marikina; for controlled dump, San Fernando City, and for material recovery, Carmona (Cavite)," Ortega said.

The SWAPP believes that a total waste management program includes composting, recycling, wastewater treatment and material recovery. Toward this end, communities must move up through the stages of having no dump, to having an open dump, a controlled landfill and, finally, an engineered landfill.

An engineered landfill primarily addresses the long-term problem of leachate (garbage juice) that may seep into the aquifers.

"Developed countries get shocked when we tell them how the Philippines manages its garbage because there, you no longer find dumps or even controlled landfills. Everything is high-tech. But then, Swana is 40 years old, which is probably why we are some 40 years behind," Ortega said. *Gia Damaso Dumo*

From 'minilika' with love and the Igorot identity

BY FRANK CIMATU
Baguio City

WHO would believe that Bontoc, Mt. Province, was one of the most cosmopolitan towns in the country in the 1920s? Who would believe that at that time, about 3 percent of all the people in the Cordillera had gone to the United States and Europe before World War I?

They sure had good coffee by then but for the stories these travelers would have told!

From 1904 to 1915, about 700 "Igorottes" from Bontoc, Suyoc (part of Mankayan, Benguet) and Abra went to the US and parts of Europe to be displayed in "their natural villages" in international fairs.

The events included the St. Louis (Missouri) World's Fair in 1904, which celebrated the centennial of the Louisiana purchase, and the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, California, in 1915.

But since many went repeatedly to these fairs, the safer total number of these *viajeros* (travelers) was 250.

Patricia Afable, part-Ibaloy and anthropology lecturer at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., has been documenting the lives of the "*minilikas*," scouring personal letters, official receipts, billboards, newspapers, photographs, video footage and whatnots.

"Minilika" is a corruption of "*naki*-America" or "going to America."

Afable and a host of Cordillera-based anthropologists, like Dr. June Prill-Brett of the University of the Philippines College Baguio, wanted to show that these "minilikas" were mere historical oddities or victims of American imperialism.

Igorots have been displayed even before the 1904 World's Fair. Even national hero Jose Rizal witnessed an exhibition in Madrid in the 1890s and he lamented how Filipinos were so humiliated like exotic animals.

THE BONTOC Igorots on display during the Universal Exposition in California in the early 1900s as shown in this photo taken from the book "Displaying Filipinos" by Benito M. Vergara Jr. (University of the Philippines Press: 1995).

The 1904 St. Louis fair captured the curiosity of the Americans and made the "Igorot dog feast" a bestseller.

Afable said 70 Bontocs, 25 Kankanaeys (mainly from Suyoc) and 18 Tingguians from Abra were among the 1,102 Filipinos displayed during the fair that started in May and ended in December that year.

The loose group had five births and one death.

About 700 Constabulary soldiers guarded the "displayed" Filipinos, but Afable said they were there to showcase the "civilized" Filipinos.

'Igorot village'

During the 1904 St. Louis fair, the "Igorot village" was the instant bestseller. Afable said gate receipts of the site were four times those garnered in the other Philippine villages.

Typical is this passage from a California textbook: "A very interesting exhibit was the Igorot village that occupied six acres of the most picturesque part of the Philippine reservation. These 114 natives, from three tribes—the Bontogs, the Suyocs and the Tinguianese—lived in nipa huts built by their own hands."

The author went on to say "headhunting among the Bontog Igorots is not only a means of self-defense, but a pastime."

"After a member of the *pueblo* has taken home a human head, a month is given to celebration. All Igorot men eat dogs. It is a tribal dish, and 20 dogs were furnished these men each week by the United States government. We watched them preparing and cooking the dogs, as well as eating them.

The women are not allowed to eat dog flesh because the Igorots say they do not care for their women to fight," the author said.

"These natives wear many bracelets and armlets of beads, and are fond of riding horses. We saw them in all their different activities, including the feast dance and many other dances, and at their games, including a curious game with a ball, which they threw about."

Actually, according to Afable, the Bontocs in the St. Louis fair were tired of eating dogs. They found the animals too fat and sometimes they buried the carcasses, instead of eating them, at a secluded spot in the makeshift village, she said.

After the St. Louis fair closed, some American businessmen thought of bringing the Igorots to other fairs across the country.

'Wild East'

This, Afable said, comprised the so-called "Wild East" shows to counter the "Wild West" shows of cowboys and Indians.

Officially, the other fairs attended by the Igorots were the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, Oregon, in 1905; the Jamestown Exposition in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1907; the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle in 1909; and the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco and San Diego in California in 1915.

About 250 Igorots, mostly teenagers, went more than once to these fairs. Considering that the population in their areas then was only about 10,000, the effect on the communities they left was considerable.

Afable said the elders sometimes jailed prospective members of the so-called cultural troupe or put them in quarantine so they could not join the slow boat to the US, but to no avail.

Some of the survivors interviewed by Afable, Brett and journalist Marilou Guieb said even the Bontoc women left on their own volition. They just wanted to see the world.

Afable noted that some members of the troupe later became recruiters and interpret-

FROM 'MINILIKA'/ p.A17

German goodies make it to Cordillera homes

By ELIZABETH LOLARGA

THE LACK of an MBA or even a college degree at the least has not hindered Herminio Tumanan, 49, from doing well in the buy-and-sell business.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

In fact, his Mark and Jeff General Merchandising, named after his two children, takes him to Germany three times a year, and from there, he brings home container vans full of sturdy, secondhand furniture and other household knickknacks.

For this enterprise, he had plenty of early practice. At age 15, he periodically hauled down vegetables from Baguio City to Angeles City, and sold these to acquaintances. On his way back to Baguio, he loaded up on secondhand American raincoats and military jackets, and offered these for a fee to the butchers at Slaughterhouse.

Next he worked at a furniture shop in Angeles before signing up for an overseas job in Saudi Arabia. From there, he moved to Germany where he met his wife Sevilla, a nurse.

In Germany, he worked as a roomboy, then bellman at the Sheraton Hotel in Essen. He saved his tips to buy Solingen kitchenware and silverware, which he later sold in his home country.

Then he began to think large scale in 1992. He saw the bright prospect of buying the furniture, décor and dining ware of old Germans bound for the home for the aged and shipping the items to the Philippines. He established his contacts with the retired folks.

Word of mouth

Word of mouth in Baguio City brought in the initial clients, who include Rep. Bernardo Vergara, Mayor Mauricio Domogan and Teresita de Guzman of the Baguio Water District who furnished all four stories of her house with Mark and Jeff furniture, the owners of Concorde Hotel and Iggy's House.

Tumanan quit his hotel job and spent his days scouring the *diakonie*, a place where German people sell the things they don't want or need anymore at low prices.

The items include chandeliers, antique replicas of pirates' pistols, cushy leather sofas, office tables, demitasse cups, beer mugs, frames, paintings, copper kettles, marble-topped center tables, old telephones, service carts, four-poster beds, clocks, toilet mirrors, crystals, porcelain, coat racks and dressers.

There are even bullet-riddled helmets from Germany, Sweden and Italy, souvenirs from the last world war.

A set of eight soup bowls, cake plates, platters, cups and saucers is going for P3,800. A living room set is priced at P70,000, and still negotiable.

A kitchen showcase, complete with dishwasher, microwave oven, stove, exhaust, refrigerator, freezer, sink and cabinets, is pegged at P150,000. Compare this with the usual Manila price of P330,000 for the same showcase, and you'd be convinced it's worth the six-hour land trip to Baguio.

Tumanan, who speaks German, travels to Velbert, where his family has built their home, and also to Essen, Mulheim, Wuppertal, Dusseldorf and Wulfrath, all on the western side, to look for good bargains.

He observes that Germans are careful with their furniture, especially those made of wood or *nussbuan*, a hardwood like narra.

"They don't put their keys, knives or anything metallic on their tables so these don't get scratched," he says. So what he brings to Baguio are always in tiptop condition.

Mark and Jeff merchandising has opened two outlets in Northern Luzon, apart from its main storehouse at 65 South Sanitary Camp Road: at Nevada Square on Loakan Road and at Km. 4, Hillside, at the back of Pines Supermart in La Trinidad, Benguet.

Don't forget to haggle.

BAR set is part of the packages that Herminio Tumanan offers for sale in his Mark and Jeff General Merchandising store in Baguio City.
TOOTS SOBERANO

From 'minilika' with love and the Igorot identity

(From page A16)

ers for the businessmen. The boys became respected men in their villages when they returned. Some of the women were able to jump caste and marry into the *kadangyan* or the rich.

There were stories of people coming back with *bauls* (chests) of bloomers, umbrellas and money.

And, of course, as the writer Somerset Maugham would say, they were able to see the world with new eyes.

The people also began to value education for their children. Afable said that in the 1950s, when the Philippine government began recording nationwide examinations in high school, Bontoc students were among the top performers.

She said the coming together of the Bontocs, Suyocs and Tingguians brought the concept of the "Igorot identity."

Much as the "Cordilleran versus Igorot" debate rages on, she said that among the Igorot-Americans, the clear choice was Igorot.

Some of the Filipinos in those times were lamenting that displaying Igorots in international fairs showed the inferiority of the Filipinos. Typical was this reaction in the Filipino newspaper "The Public" in 1906:

"There are many of our students and countrymen who have been asked the following questions from badly informed Americans: 'Since when have you used coats?' 'Do your shoes hurt your feet?' and whether there are many Filipinos who wear clothes, etc., etc. And as the United States government maintains that its mission is one of education, the belief grows that we Filipinos are savages whom the nephews of Uncle Sam are here to civilize."

'Dog eater'

Some Igorot-Americans and Filipino-Americans, for that matter, had begun using the term "dog eater," not as a term of shame but of dignity, Afable said.

It shows that we are not only different but also to be feared by the Americans, she said.

Some of the old photos of the exhibitions showed the Igorots having fun while play-acting, with the Americans watching them through binoculars a few feet away.

Our editorialists may hem and haw about cultural exploitation but as the "minilikas" would confront their disbelieving listeners: But have you ever been to St. Louis? Seattle? Brussels? Panama?

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*Viewing area is comparable to regular 15" CRT Monitor

‘Ka Popoy’ shot dead inside UP campus

(From page A1)

“We have information that (as of 5:45 p.m.), the gunmen were still inside the campus,” the senior Lagman said in Filipino on radio.

The shooting of Lagman, one of the leaders of the party-list group Sanlakas, is the first celebrated crime committed under the Macapagal administration.

Sanlakas was one of the groups that supported the broad-coalition that ousted President Joseph Estrada but it rejected Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as Estrada’s successor.

President Macapagal assured the labor leader’s family that the government would hunt down the suspects.

Newly installed Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, who came to the hospital at about 7:20 p.m., said he was personally instructed by the President to relay the assurance to Lagman’s family.

Shortly after news of the shooting reached the Philippine National Police headquarters at Camp Crame, acting PNP chief Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza proceeded to the crime scene.

Mendoza also visited Lagman at the hospital.

Mendoza ordered the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) and the Intelligence Group to run after the gunmen.

Last night, the PNP and the National Bureau of Investigation formed Task Force Popoy.

It is headed by National Capital Regional Office Director Chief Supt. Edgardo Aglipay.

Two witnesses

As of last night, the UP police had taken a sworn statement of one witness, security guard Randy de la Cruz.

In his narration before UP Special Police Investigator Geoffrey Mendoza, De la Cruz said he was inside Bahay ng Alumni when he heard a single gunshot. It was followed by two more successive gunshots.

Crime investigators later reported that three shells of a .45 cal. automatic were found at the scene.

De la Cruz said he rushed outside and saw Lagman’s body slumped on the pavement in a pool of blood about two meters away from Bahay ng Alumni’s stairway.

By then the assailants, all carrying handguns, were on the run on Balagtas Street.

Looking like policemen

The gunmen then flagged down a silver grey Toyota Corolla driven by Dr. Edward Padilla-Navarro. They forced the driver out at gunpoint.

De la Cruz said he tried to chase the gunmen but two of them threatened to shoot him.

The assailants then drove away for less than a kilometer from the crime scene before abandoning the car in Pook Palaris.

Looked like cops

A 13-year-old boy, who saw the gunmen get out of the car, said the suspects “looked like policemen,” according to Investigator Mendoza.

The boy said the gunmen appeared to be around 30 years old, of heavy build, and sporting military haircut, Mendoza said. The suspects wore denim pants and gray and black shirts.

Sison’s statement

Before Lagman’s ambush, The Netherlands-based Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, had accused Estrada and former PNP chief Director General Panfilo Lacson of masterminding an alleged assassination plot against him.

In a short statement sent through the Internet, Sison said it was hard to suggest motives for the shooting because the labor leader made “a lot of enemies.”

As far as the revolutionary movement was concerned, “Popoy was tolerated because of his anti-Estrada posture,” Sison said.

The senior Lagman said there were many possible motives for the shooting. “But my brother is in a legitimate labor group. His advocacy is for the poor and the Filipino workers,” he said.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), a rival labor group of the BMP, expressed shock over the ambush of Lagman.

“While we have been known rivals in the labor front, our conflict has always been kept open and conducted within the bounds of the legal struggle, KMU chair Crispin Beltran said in a statement.

No to Gloria

Beltran said Lagman’s line of “Resign all” during the height of the broad Estrada resign movement was unpopular.

“His and his group’s follow-up on that line, to wit: ‘Gloria is not the People’s choice,’ and their anti-*trapo* campaign could have generated a political backlash against him,” Beltran said.

Beltran said Lagman’s alleged tie-up with the Presidential Anti-Organize Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) of Lacson and the multimillion-peso deals that he brokered with the PEA-Amari and the Philippine Airlines were “also worth looking into as to the possible causes of the ambush.”

The KMU said the ambush should not be used to blur the people’s clamor for the arrest of Estrada and to sow “bloody intrigues between rival political groups and labor organizations.”

Dastardly act

The BMP described the shooting of Lagman as a “dastardly and cowardly crime that only reflected the hollowness of the country’s democracy.”

In a statement, the labor group said the shooting was politically motivated as its leader was “a very controversial figure.”

“Many have motives to eliminate Lagman. They had many opportunities, yet whoever they are, they had the confidence to strike only now, not then.”

“It is a testament to the hollowness of our so-called democracy that revolutionaries who choose to shift the struggle to the mainstream through legal yet militant means fall victim to a violent assassination,” the BMP said.

The BMP said it would not be cowed by the shooting.

Fr. Max Abalos, Sanlakas national chair, said the Macapagal administration should conduct a thorough investigation to find out the motive and identity of the people behind the ambush.

Abalos said that Lagman was a “very sincere leader of the poor workers” and that he joined the underground movement “for the people.”

The Sanlakas chapter in Negros Occidental sought “immediate justice” for Lagman.

Ariel Guides, Sanlakas Negros spokesperson, said the shooting of Lagman was done by “enemies of the working class.”

In Pampanga, the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines (MLPP) and its armed wing, the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan (RHP), condemned the shooting of Lagman.

“Whatever his differences with other revolutionary groups, Lagman was a rebel who would and could not live with the status quo and who staunchly pursued his beliefs to the extent of challenging the powers-that-be,” the MLPP said.

It said the shooting could be “the handiwork of undemocratic forces that cannot tolerate dissent and any differing idea,” MLPP spokesperson Leonardo Guevarra said.

Red Olalia, RHB spokesperson, said Lagman had long been a target of intrigues and threats by the CPP.

“The attempt on Popoy Lagman signals a new height of repression on legitimate workers and people’s organizations,” he said.

The death of Lagman was in some ways similar to the murder of KMU leader Rolando Olalia in 1986, a few months after the dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted and months before military rebels attempted a coup against then President Corazon Aquino.

Olalia and his driver Leonor Alay-ay were abducted on Nov. 12, 1986 and were found dead the next day in Cogeo, Antipolo.

The killings led to a massive protest march in Metro Manila.

The twin murders were blamed on military rebels. But nobody has been convicted. ***With reports from Cathy Yamsuan in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

GMA picks Guingona, cites ‘I accuse’ speech

(From page A1)

Guingona, 72, whom the President described as “a worthy son of Mindanao,” was tuned to a TV monitor inside the Senate session hall as she began her announcement at 5 p.m.

As soon as his nomination was announced, a number of his supporters broke into applause even while the other senators were in the middle of deliberations on the floor.

“I am very happy. I have been hoping for this for some time, and I thank the President for her recognition,” Guingona said in a TV interview as soon as the announcement was over.

He said an emissary of the President’s informed him earlier in the day that he had been chosen.

But in the House, Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen questioned Ms Macapagal’s nomination of Guingona as Vice President.

“Gloria is promoting herself by doing this when she should wait until 2004 when the people can promote her to be President,” the opposition lawmaker said last night.

“Since Gloria is only an acting President, that means her post as Vice President is not vacant. She has no authority to name someone in her place,” he said.

Foreign secretary

Guingona is expecting the President to appoint him concurrent secretary of foreign affairs, as she had announced much earlier.

He said he would vigorously pursue Ms Macapagal’s foreign policies and cited his plan to connect all Filipinos abroad to a computerized network to speed up assistance when needed.

But foreign service officers at the Department of Foreign Affairs made a last-ditch appeal to the President not to appoint a politician as foreign secretary.

In a one-page manifesto they issued yesterday, they said only a career diplomat had the “knowledge, skills, training and expertise” to execute the country’s foreign policy in a complex international environment.

“The secretary of foreign affairs has to be of known intellectual probity and integrity and should be able to command respect internationally,” the manifesto read.

“(He) must be equipped with expert knowledge of the international working environment, international organizational culture and diplomacy, and must have international rapport.

“These are requirements which only our career foreign service corps can sufficiently respond to.”

Sources said some ranking DFA officials also joined the junior foreign service officers in issuing the manifesto.

Other congressmen were less hostile when told about Guingona’s nomination.

Two of his former colleagues in the Senate, Quezon Rep. Wigberto Tañada and House Minority Leader Agapito “Butz” Aquino, welcomed his nomination and agreed that he deserved the vice presidency.

Apparently unaware of Dilangalen’s sentiments, Aquino said he did not expect minority congressmen to raise objections over Guingona’s nomination.

Praise

The other contenders for the vice presidency were all praise for Guingona.

“*Manong* Tito started it all when it was a lonely battle to wage,” said Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, like Guingona also of Lakas.

“Good, good for Tito,” Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was regarded as Guingona’s closest rival, said when reporters gave him the news in the morning.

Pimentel said the Senate and the House could concur in the nomination as early as last night.

“I suppose that if the nomination is done today, later tonight you will have the confirmation by both houses. There’s not much of a problem because that is her choice, and her choice must be given acknowledgement. We will act on her official announcement,” he said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. was the first to issue a written statement congratulating Ms Macapagal for choosing Guingona.

He said he had learned about Guingona’s nomination from a friend in Malacañang.

“I am confident my colleague will be a competent and faithful ally of your administration, as evidenced by his rich political experience, courage of conviction and unwavering public service,” Magsaysay said.

In his statement, Drilon said Guingona’s “wisdom and experience” would “greatly boost” the President’s “effort to steer our country toward political stability and economic progress.”

Legarda-Leviste issued her own statement lauding Guingona “as one of the heroes of Edsa II, for he was the first to courageously come out with an exposé of the pervasive graft and corruption in the Estrada administration.”

Last week, Pimentel conceded that Guingona had an edge because he belonged to the President’s party and had the support of former President Fidel Ramos.

Drilon, dubbed the dark horse in the race, told the INQUIRER at 2:45 p.m. yesterday that he had received a call from Malacañang.

“Somebody told me the President has made a choice and it’s not me. I said, ‘Thank you,’” he said.

Asked how he felt, Drilon said: “I’m okay. I will support whoever is chosen. I will now prepare for reelection.”

Credentials

Ms Macapagal cited the high qualifications of the other contenders for the post.

Of Pimentel, she said: “Under his leadership, the Senate has regained new heights, characterized by respect and credibility.”

She said that Drilon’s “integrity and sense of patriotism are unquestionable,” that Sen. Raul Roco, whom she had earlier appointed education secretary, “commands respect throughout the land.”

The President said Magsaysay, “like his beloved father, has a heart that bleeds for the poor and underprivileged.”

She lauded Legarda-Leviste as “one of the heroines of the impeachment trial” and “an outstanding legislator and a leader to watch.”

“Any one of them is worthy of becoming vice president, and I salute each of them and I pray that they will lend their hands as we heal and build,” the President said.

She added, however, that it was time to fulfill the promise for Mindanao through “a worthy son.”

“Mindanao has the potential to become both the rice granary of the entire country (and) the economic hub that will propel us to the global village,” she said.

“Its many and diverse resources . . . from the sea to vast tract of lands and the people of Mindanao themselves, are one vast promise.

“Too long have we focused on things that divide, rather than on the things that unite. In the process, we have forgotten the promise that is Mindanao.

“It is time we fulfilled that promise. It is time we healed the wound inflicted on Mindanao residents because of unfulfilled commitments.”

Mixed reactions

In the Visayas, Guingona’s nomination to the vice presidency was greeted with mixed reactions.

While the Ilonggos felt bad that Drilon, their *kasimanwa* (townmate), did not make it, they still welcomed the selection of Guingona.

The President’s choice did not come as a surprise in Cebu because Guingona had been seen as the likely vice president.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said Guingona might be good for Mindanao because he would be able to represent its concerns.

“The Visayas has no urgent concerns like Mindanao,” Lagdameo said. “At first glance, it would seem a good representation because the President comes from Luzon and the Vice President, from the Visayas. I have high hopes for Drilon, but he is still young.”

Rene Villa, presidential assistant for Western Visayas, said “it is a sad day” for the region because Drilon was not chosen.

“But let us respect the (choice) of Ms Macapagal,” he said, and urged Ilonggos to support Guingona in his new role as Vice President.

Former Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña said Ms Macapagal might have preferred somebody who was not “presidential timber” that could upstage her later.

But Osmeña—executive director of Promdi, a member party of the United Opposition—said she should be given the leeway to “choose whoever she wants.” ***With reports from Cathy C. Yamsuan and Dona Pazzibugan in Manila; Connie Fernandez, Diosa Labiste and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

The man who . . .

(From page A1)

bership of about 100,000 workers.

Lagman had a vision of uniting all progressive unions, build a top-caliber labor law office, start the groundwork for organizing an electoral labor party, put up a radio program and a daily tabloid for the cause-oriented movement, and establish a workers’ bank to further bolster the livelihood requirements of the sector.

This was a vision that almost came true at the height of the protest to oust Joseph Estrada, when the different workers federations on common action for Estrada’s ouster.

Lagman’s group was one of the first to be at the Edsa Shrine after the Senate’s rejection of the opening of the second envelope. When it was Lagman’s turn to speak, people from Makati reportedly did not know how to react when he called “for a revolution in Ayala.”

Underground

Lagman led protest actions in many of the BMP’s member unions. Other protest actions were directed against oil price hikes, the expanded value added tax, the Anti-Terror Bill, the Visiting Forces Agreement and for the resignation and ouster of President Joseph Estrada.

Active in the underground struggle against the Marcos dictatorship, he used the alias “Carlos Forte” or “Ka Popoy.” He was a member of Samahang Demokratiko ng Kabataan in UP in the 1970s. He went underground after finishing only a year of journalism at University of the Philippines.

During martial law, he headed the Manila-Party Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines till his suspension by the Executive Committee of the Central Committee in 1978 due to differences in the participation in the elections called by President Marcos.

Lagman advocated participation against the party’s boycott stance.

Suspected by the military to be the chief of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the dreaded communist hit squad, he was arrested in 1994 and went aboveground after his release.

Again, he was arrested in 1996 at the height of protests against the Asia-Pacific Economic summit which Manila was hosting. The BMP was a breakaway group from the Kilusang Mayong Uno (KMU).

Protest actions

Two weeks after his arrest, protest actions by 183 unions erupted in Metro Manila, demanding his release.

The workers’ action included mass walkouts, work stoppages, demonstrations, pickets and hanging banners at factory gates. Lagman was released on Nov. 28, three days after the Apec summit, which confirmed Lagman’s suspicions that his arrest was merely part of the security arrangements for the visiting heads of state in Manila.

The order for his release came from the Quezon City court, which cited the lack of due process in his abduction and imprisonment. Lagman’s lawyers filed a charge of grave abuse of authority against the state prosecutor who ordered his arrest.

The BMP traces its origins to the split within the KMU in 1993, when the entire regional chapter in Metro Manila collapsed. The chapter accounted for more than half the total membership of the KMU.

Split within a split

The split occurred after a major split took place in the underground Communist Party of the Philippines, when almost half the membership rejected its Stalinist-Maoist politics.

Lagman led the breakaway from the CPP in 1991 due to differences with founding CPP chair, Jose Ma. Sison, on the question of strategy of guerrilla war and the analysis of Philippine society as semi-feudal and semi-colonial.

Lagman advocated a shift to the workers movement, combining parliamentary and extra-parliamentary means and a “strategy of a workers uprising toward a socialist revolution.”

Lagman’s splinter group is called the RJ (Rejectionist) to differentiate it from the mainstream RA (Reaffirmist).

Today the RJ group is said to be hopelessly split into three. Among the splinters, Lagman at the time of his death was said to be the only one to hold a truly urban mass following. The rest are said to be “paper tigers” which do not have countryside fronts or bases.

Lagman had once lamented that the KMU had been treating the BMP as an “enemy.” The KMU had attacked the BMP and accused it of being “insurrectionist” and a partner of government at the same time. The rift was a product of differences between Lagman and Sison. The KMU is said to be aligned with Sison.

But consistent with his “rejectionist” image, Lagman scored Sison for being “constitutionalist” by endorsing Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo to succeed President Estrada in the event of Estrada’s impeachment or resignation.

Consistent with his vision for reform, Lagman took a “resign all” position.

Second son of Mindanao in No. 2 post

(From page A1)

Oriental, Guingona was chosen Vice President by Macapagal’s daughter, Gloria, who was elected Vice President in 1998 and swept into the presidency by People Power II on Jan. 20.

And as her father did, Ms Macapagal is also naming Guingona as foreign affairs secretary. Pelaez was also foreign secretary from Dec. 30, 1961, to July 23, 1963.

Guingona, who is turning 73 on July 4, was born in San Juan, Metro Manila, but grew up in the provinces of Lanao, Agusan, Misamis Oriental.

He spent his elementary years at the Ateneo de Cagayan (Xavier University) and completed his high school, college and law education at the Ateneo de Manila as a working student.

He taught law, political science and history at the Ateneo de Manila and Adamson University. He pursued special studies in audit, public administration, economics and sociology.

Guingona has had a distinguished career as a lawyer, law professor, businessman, legislator, Cabinet member and book author.

Third Cabinet post

His Cabinet post under the Macapagal administration as foreign secretary will be his third. On his second term as senator, he was appointed executive secretary by then President Fidel V. Ramos in July 1993.

In 1995, he was appointed justice secretary and headed, in a concurrent capacity, the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission and the Dangerous Drugs Board.

He is the former chair of the Commission on Audit (1986-89) and the Labor Management Advisory Council for Mindanao, former governor of the Development Bank of the Philippines, former director of the Mindanao Development Authority and former president of the Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines.

Guingona was one of the delegates to the 1971 Constitutional Convention before the dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law.

After Marcos was toppled in 1986 and Corazon Aquino assumed the presidency, Guingona was chief negotiator of the government panel in the peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front.

In 1987, he was elected senator and was one of the “Magnificent 12” members of the Senate who voted to dismantle US military bases in the country in September 1991. He also voted against the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement in May 1999.

As senator, he had held the positions of president pro tempore, majority leader and minority leader.

Guingona is married to Ruthie de Lara of Misamis Oriental, who was proclaimed winner by the Commission on Elections in the 1995 gubernatorial polls in Misamis Oriental sometime in late 1997. The couple has three children.

In November 1997, Pelaez told the INQUIRER that he won the vice presidency because, among other reasons, “I am from the South. It fit the geographical balance.”

Yesterday, Pelaez, 85, who is also a former ambassador to the United States, said he was “very happy” that Macapagal chose Guingona. “Gloria has done well to balance,” he said.

Pelaez said the Guingonas’ record of public service had gone a long way.

“The Guingona family was originally from Iloilo, but Guingona’s father was assigned as a commissioner in Mindanao by President (Manuel Luis) Quezon, so the record of service goes back,” Pelaez said.

Guingona’s father Teofisto Sr., a former assemblyman, senator, judge and commissioner of Mindanao and Sulu, hailed from Iloilo, while his mother, Josefa Tayko, was a native of Negros Oriental. ***Reports from Carolyn O. Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and PDI Research***

SPORTSWATCH

Rotary tomorrow

MORE than 300 Rotarians will get the early feel of Baguio's allure for an exciting summer as they compete in the 15th Rotary Golfing Foundation of the Philippines Golf Tournament starting tomorrow at the Camp John Hay Golf Club and the Baguio Country Club courses. The Rotarians will go for the many prizes up for grabs including the whopping P1 million pot donated by Seaboard Eastern Insurance for the player who scores an ace on a designated hole. Metro West Triangle (team) and Bayani Basilio (Davao) will be defending their respective titles in the annual event which has drawn the support of other big companies like Smart Communications, Fortune Tobacco and Electrobus-Callaway. Other sponsors are Unilever, Ortigas & Co., Power Golf, Camp John Hay, PAL, Menzi & Company, Menzi Trust Fund, Copacobana Apartment-Hotel, JERM Marketing, Tristan Calixto, Pabling Calma, Nouveau Manufacturing, Jomon Carpet, EEI Corporation, Enriquez Security, Inc. PET Plans, Republic Glass Asahi Corp., Waterfront Hotels & Casino, Metro Alliance Holdings & Equities, Shell, Builder's Federal, PCSO, Boysen, GNC's Wakunaga Procta-Logic, Platinum Plans, McQuay, Nike and Nature Spring mineral water.

Guardo new CBL head

THE ELECTION of Osaka team owner Jonathan Guardo as new Cebu Basketball League (CBL) president was seen as a big boost to Cebuano basketball. Guardo, the chief executive of the Guardo Group of Companies, hopes to bring Cebuano talents to national limelight as he plans to forge a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Basketball League and the MBA. "I believe experience is still the best teacher and exposure is the best way to further develop the talents of our players and uplift the level of competition of Cebuano basketball," said Guardo, who also bared plans to invite PBL teams and MBA's Cebu Gems against top Cebuano talents in the weeklong CBL President's Cup tentatively set March 5-11. Dazz Ultra Dishwashing Liquid has been accepted as the newest CBL member and will be one of the featured teams in the upcoming CBL President's Cup along with multi-titled M. Lhuillier, Chariot, Western Union and Guardo Shiatsu.

Dance show slated

A FUND-RAISING dance show, featuring four-time world show dance champions Massimo Giogianni and Alessia Manfredini and Latin dance world master champions Allen Tomabang and Serena Lecca, will be held Feb. 21 at the Rizal Ballroom of Shangri-La Hotel Makati. Dubbed "Come Fly with Us," the event will have as its theme A journey via air through countries where certain dances originated, such as Cuba (rhumba and cha-cha), Austria (Viennese waltz), Argentina (tango), the United States (jive-jitterbug) and Spain (paso doble). It will indeed be a night to remember with the four performers expected to give the Filipino audience a glimpse of their world-class skills and talents in the event staged for the benefit of Bahay Pangarap Foundation and Rehabilitation Center for the street children of Pasay City. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. with the main show set at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are pegged at P3,000 and P2,500.

Chua starts defense of S. Ladies crown

HEIDI Chua, the surprise winner last year in Cagayan de Oro City, will start defense of her crown today in the NGAP-Southern Ladies Golf Championship in Bacolod City.

FELICIANO

Venue of the tournament ending on Friday is the vastly improved Bacolod Golf & Country Club in Binitin about 10 km from the city.

Chua, representing Wack Wack, stunned the field last year with her consistency, humbling her foes in Cagayan that included members of the country's national training pool.

As a result of her victory, Chua was offered a slot in the national pool. But she declined, opting to pursue her studies in the United States.

"She really deserved to be in the pool but then, we have to respect her decision," said Alice Andrada, treasurer of the organizing NGAP who has been the tournament's moving spirit for years. "I expect a tough battle this year as members of the pool, who have been training religiously for the SEA Games, have vowed to avenge their defeat last year. I see vengeance in their eyes."

Members of the pool include Ruby Chico Walker, Lina de Guzman, Lucy Landicho, Carmelette Villaroman, Aileen Chua, Loralie Roberto and Tracy Locsin. Grace Ebalde is also entered.

Chua got a break from her school in a bid to score a rare back-to-back victory in this the 36th edition of the longest-running lady golfest in the country.

The tournament, supported by DHL Philippines, DPC, the Philippine Sports Commission, PAL, Hidden Springs, Bacolod Executive Inn, VF Belmonte Corp. and Master Sports, started yesterday with the Lam-Am event.

NGAP president Rod Feliciano, who hit ceremonial tee shots yesterday together with Donnie Poblador, Jhay Montelibano, Mayor Oscar Verdeflor and Andrada, expressed his appreciation to officials of the host club "for their cooperation and unselfish demeanor to make the tournament a resounding success."

Matoto shines . . .

(From page A20)

MATOTO

Jun Galindez reiterated their gratitude to the companies which made another Mango Tee a resounding success.

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Hearing on cage row today

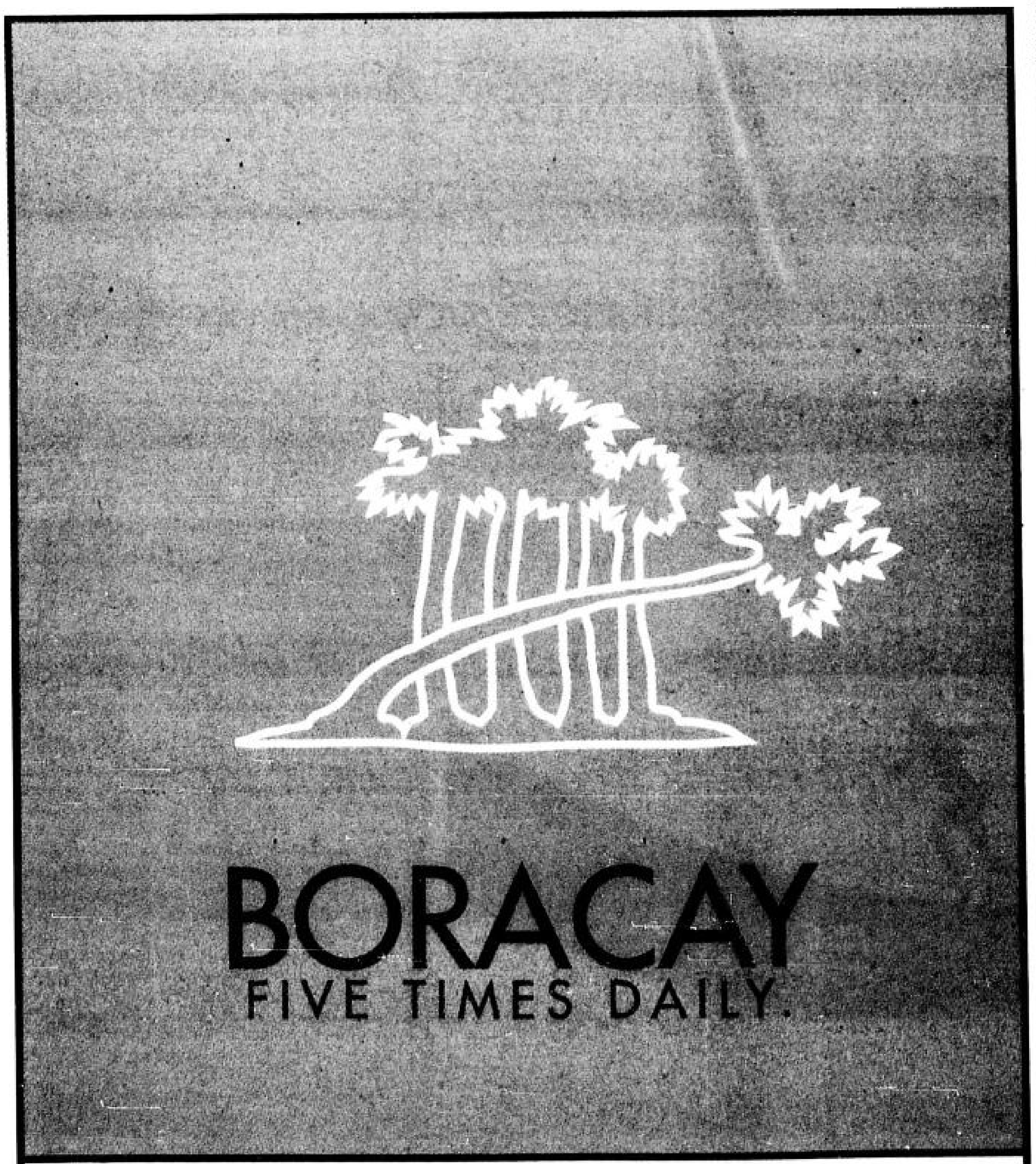
THE Philippine Olympic Committee's arbitration committee finalizes its recommendation today on who will become the legitimate basketball chief in a bid to end the protracted war between Freddie Jalasco and Quintellano "Tiny" Literal.

Sans any major obstacle, POC president Celso Dayrit said the arbitration committee will conclude its investigation and submit its findings to the Executive Board, if possible, on Friday.

"The Executive Board will then decide on which faction the POC will recognize," said Dayrit.

Expected to attend the hearing are Graham Lim, secretary general of Literal's faction, and legal counsel Bonifacio Alentajan, who were both absent during the preliminary hearing last week.

June Navarro



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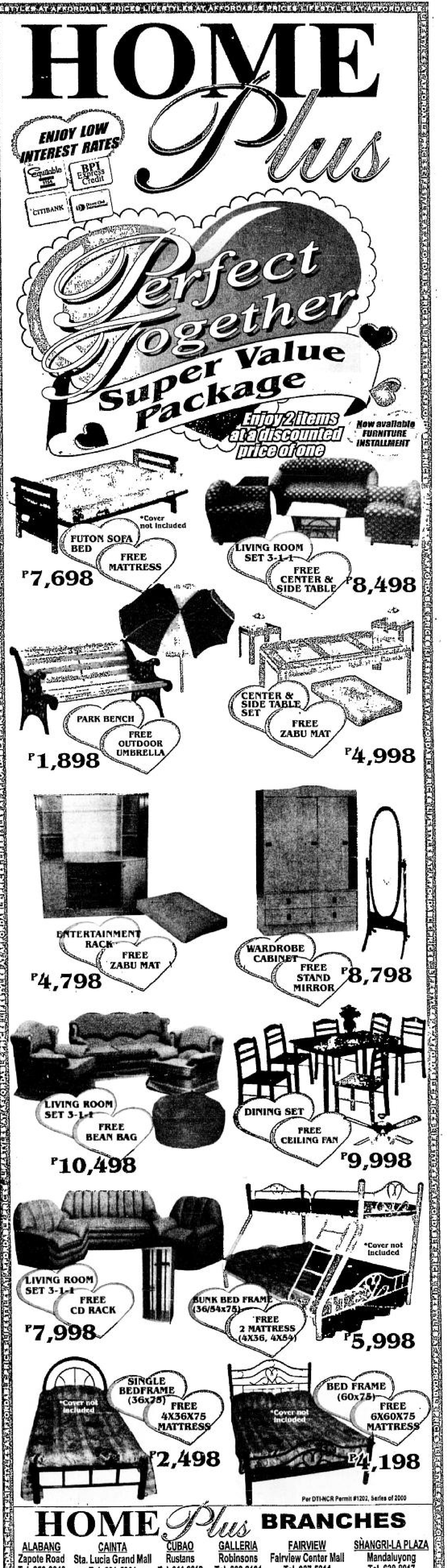
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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ◼ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Duremdes, Feihl fined P20,000 each

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

Games today: (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Red Bull vs Shell
7:30 p.m.—Mobiline vs Pop Cola

KENNETH Duremdes and EJ Feihl incurred P20,000 penalty each as they got the brunt of the fines meted by the PBA office yesterday for two separate incidents last week.

Duremdes and Feihl figured in a skirmish during the game between Alaska Milk and Purefoods last Sunday.

The Hotdogs' therapist Roy Lazaro was also fined P10,000 for entering the court during the fracas.

Duremdes hacked Feihl as they jostled for position, prompting the 7-foot Feihl to flail his hands at the 1998 MVP, who retaliated by throwing the ball at him. Duremdes also went after Feihl and threw some punches which didn't hit their mark.

Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao was fined P5,000 for instructing Lordy Tugade to fight back at Pop Cola's Pido Jarencio last Friday. Guiao was overheard as saying: "Hit him back" to Tugade after Jarencio elbowed him in the previous play.

Meanwhile, Batang Red Bull and Mobiline gun for a first victory today against separate rivals as the PBA All Filipino Cup resumes at Philsports.

The Thunder will face the Shell Velocity Zoom Masters at 5:15 p.m., while the Phone Pals take on the Pop Cola Panthers at 7:30 p.m.

Despite having a sensational rookie in Willie Miller, the Thunder fell to Pop Cola (88-77) in their first game. Miller made six points in his pro debut as he ran circles around his defenders, including Johnny Abarrientos.

RP Cuppers launch bid today

THE PHILIPPINES starts its tough task of getting back into Group I today when the Filipino Cuppers take on Singapore in the opening ties of the Asia-Oceania Zone Group III Davis Cup competitions at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. The first duel in the best-of-three matches ties starts at 10 a.m. after the 8:30 opening ceremonies.

Shark keeps hopes alive

BY DENNIS EROA

NUMBER 13 proved very unlucky for Welcoat Paints.

Last night, Shark Energy Drink halted Welcoat with a 65-50 victory in Game Three of the PBL Challenge Cup best-of-seven championship series before a jampacked crowd at the Makati Coliseum.

Wearing jersey number 13, acrobatic Roger Yap kept the Paintmasters at bay with his snipings, while Chester Tolomia, Ryzal Castro and Michael Robinson had their share of the spotlight as the Energy Drink Kings moved within 2-1 in the series.

Game Four is set for 5:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Earlier, Montaña Jewels recorded its best-finish ever by downing Blu Sun Power, 72-64, for third place.

Displaying a new-found intensity, Shark stymied Welcoat's offense as they finally stopped coach Junel Baculi's magical string of victories in title series to 12 games dating back to the Challenge Cup.

Welcoat is eyeing its fourth straight title. Baculi's charges swept Red Bull (3-0) and Ana Freezer (3-0) in two Challenge Cups before recording a 4-0 drubbing of Shark in the Chairman's Cup.

So frustrated was Welcoat that the Paintmasters didn't play defense in the dying seconds. Baculi and the whole team spent most of the time hitting alleged bum calls of the referees even as Shark continued their well-oiled game.

"Number 13 is lucky for me. This is a breakthrough win for us," said Shark mentor Leo Austria.

Meanwhile, Santi Araneta was unanimously chosen as officer in charge of the MBA yesterday after former chair and president Bert Lina stepped down to run for governor of Laguna.

Araneta, team owner of the Batangas Blades, was nominated by San Juan's Sandy Javier and met no objection from members of the Multi-Regional Board Inc. *With a report from Roy Luarca*

The scores:

SHARK 65—Yap 15, Castro 13, Robinson 9, Tolomia 9, Malabanan 8, Ortega 5, Ybañez 3, Velez 2, Echavez 0, Rodriguez 0, Limare 0, Sotto 0.

WELCOAT 50—Ritualo 13, Manalo 12, Villoria 7, Cruz 5, De Ocampo 5, Sison 4, Canlas 2, Pamintuan 2, Patrimonio 0, Orfrecio 0, Suba 0, Zamora 0, Tan 0.

Quarters: 23-10,36-25,47-42,64-50.

NBA complete results:

Toronto 110, Boston 98; Dallas 91, Atlanta 81; Philadelphia 99, Denver 80; Houston 100, New York 86; San Antonio 109, Golden State 85; Seattle 95, Vancouver 82; LA Clippers 102, Chicago 82. *AP*

Matoto shines in Mango Tee

SENEN "Bing" Matoto became one of the biggest winners in the 17-year history of the Mango Tee Invitational golf tournament when he scored a hole-in-one and teamed up with former national player Cookie LaO to win the overall title in the just-concluded mango Tee Invitational Golf Tournament at the Alabang Country Club course.

Matoto, vice president of BPI, aced No. 8 with an overclubbed 4-wood shot in his second round last Feb. 3 to win a Mitsubishi Lancer GLS. He and LaO later finished off an 80 for a two-day aggregate of 155 that made them the runaway overall champions.

Matoto and LaO finished seven points clear of the next team in the final standings, Cresencio Jao and Ramon Sapico and Juan Barandiaran and nephew Frankie, for the lopsided victory in the event that had Smart Communications and Mitsubishi Motors as major backers.

Sapico-Jao nipped the Barandiarans in the countback for Class D honors. The other division winners were Raul "Nonoy" Zamora-Gary Mackay in Class A, Lito Abad-Gil Domingco in Class B and Ernest Villareal-Al Cusi in Class C.

Iggy Clavecilla and Francis Gaston lived up to their top billing in the low gross competition, combining for 139 points to finish way ahead of their rivals.

Zamora and Mackay aggregated 145 to nip Seve Roxas-Chua and Carlos Gamban by just a point; the Abad-Domingo tandem's 150-point effort gave them a three-point win over Epifanio Joaquin-Anselmo Rodriguez and the duo of Ernest Villareal-Cusi prevailed by three over Amante Caronongan-Sergs dela Fuentes.

The club officialdom headed by Acci president Vic Guzman and the organizing committee chaired by

MATOTO SHINES/ A19

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Welcome Alan, Art & Rob

Bayan's Santiago to run in Caloocan;
Lopez making a comeback in Manila A22
Cop's son runs wild, hurts mom, wife A22

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Bare Eye:
RP sports also crying for change A22
Technicians 'approve' temporary dump A22

Graft raps filed vs UP's ex-student regent

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA
AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

FORMER University of the Philippines Student Regent Hannah Eunice Serana was charged yesterday with malversation of public funds before the Office of the Ombudsman for the P15-million scam which has rocked the state university.

The lawyers of current UP Student Regent Kristine Clare Bugayong and secretary general Christine Jill de Guzman of Kasama sa UP, the alliance of student councils in UP, filed the charges in the afternoon and asked that a hold departure order be issued against Serana, 22, of San Miguel, Apas, Cebu.

They accused Serana, a senior political science student of UP Cebu, of embezzling P15 million in presidential funds earmarked for the renovation of Vinzons Hall Annex at UP in Diliman, Quezon City.

They also urged the Ombudsman to issue a subpoena duces tecum for the bank records of Serana and members of the Office of the Student Regent Foundation Inc., who are all believed to be relatives of Serana.

The former student regent reportedly used the foundation, which was later renamed the Student Welfare and Programs Foundation Inc., to negotiate the renovation of Vinzons Hall and facilitate the release of the P15 million from the Presidential Management Staff.

The scam was exposed only after Paul Maravillas, the PMS officer in charge of infrastructure projects, last week called up Bugayong's office to inquire about the status of the Vinzons Hall Annex renovation.

"To date, no construction was ever started in Vinzons Hall since the release of the money—no surveying, no purchases of supplies and equipment, no approval or permit from the UP Campus Architect or the UP Diliman Chancellor," Bugayong said.

A brother-in-law of deposed President Estrada was also implicated in the scam.

Earlier, Jayson Edward San Juan, Samasa student party chair, showed the INQUIRER a letter Serana supposedly wrote in September 2000 to Estrada's brother-in-law and UP Board of Regents member Raul de Guzman, seeking an audience with the deposed President.

Serana wrote in her letter to Estrada that "the 'Estrada Student Hall' shall be a material manifesto of His Excellency's support for intellectual rejuvenation and renaissance."

Serana also personally proposed to Estrada to rename Vinzons Hall Annex to "Joseph Estrada Student Hall" and house under one roof the offices of the Student Regent, the Faculty Regent, a student museum, a mini-theater, a conference hall, a study lounge, and a student café.

But the proposal turned out to be bogus and Serana kept it secret from other student leaders.

"She misrepresented that the proposal had the approval of the UP System Student Councils when in fact it had not been presented at that time," Bugayong said in her complaint.

"Sometime in June 2000, Serana circulated for the approval of all student council chairs of UP Diliman a resolution calling for the renovation of Vinzons Hall," Bugayong said. "The resolution was very general and did not contain details such as the extent of construction and the cost."

GRAFT RAPS/ A22

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Soldier slain after killing GRO, injuring 2 policemen

By Stella O. Gonzales

AN ARMY private who refused to pay his group's P5,679 bill at a videoke bar in Cavite shot and killed a GRO and injured two police officers while trying to escape from police custody.

PFC Restituto Domingo, of Tuguegarao City, was himself killed when he traded shots with responding policemen.

One of his companions, Florante Donato, a senior police officer in Baguio City who was dropped from the rolls in 1999, escaped. A third suspect, Tedmar Galang, was arrested.

A report by the Cavite police provincial director, Senior Supt. Nestor Sanares, said that at 3:30 a.m. yesterday, the owner of the Bosyo 3 Videoke Bar called for police assistance because the three men refused to pay their bill. One of them, Donato, was armed with a .45 cal. pistol.

The responding policemen brought the suspects to the Bacoor police station. Donato boarded the police car while Domingo and Galang were made to take Domingo's Isuzu Hi-lander to the precinct.

With Donato and Galang were police officers Willy Aricayos and Jun Martal and Angelica Pastranias, a GRO at the bar and witness to their refusal to pay.

As he stepped out of the police car at the precinct, Donato was able to run and escape.

Amid the confusion, the second set of suspects—Domingo and Galang—arrived at the police station. Domingo whipped out his handgun from under the car seat and fired at the policemen and the witness.

Policemen from the station responded and fired at him. Domingo was killed instantly.

Pastranias, Aricayos and Martal were taken to the hospital. Pastranias died while being treated. The two police officers have been declared out of danger.

The Bacoor police and the Cavite provincial intelligence and investigation division are conducting follow-up operations. They are also checking Donato's status with the Army.

Bayan's Santiago to run in Caloocan; Lopez making a comeback in Manila

By Christian V. Esguerra

MILITANT group leader Nathanael Santiago and former TV anchor Roberto "Bobby" Guanzon are joining the political fray in Caloocan City.

In Manila, former Mayor Gemiliano "Mel" Lopez is staging a political comeback as leader of the newly formed Edsa People's Power Coalition-Manila chapter.

Santiago, secretary general of the party list group Bayan Muna, is said to be running for councilor in the second district of Caloocan.

Guanzon, who was Caloocan congressman from 1995 to 1998, will take the slot for vice mayor of mayoral aspirant Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio.

In a statement, Santiago said his candidacy aims to "prevent undesirable elements identified with the Estrada regime from staging another political comeback."

Santiago was apparently alluding to Baby Asistio and his brother, former Mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio Jr., members of a political dynasty in Caloocan.

Santiago said his election bid is anchored on the premise that "we want to complete and consolidate the gains we had in the second People Power."

SANTIAGO

LOPEZ

"The situation warrants the preservation of unity and alliance with other players of (Edsa II)," he added.

Santiago said he would carry out the platform of Bayan Muna that includes the fight for higher wages, better working conditions, genuine land reform, and mass housing.

He will run as a guest candidate of Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo's party.

Asistio said his team-up with Guanzon is virtually "formidable" and is sure to beat the tandem of Malonzo and former basketball player and referee Councilor Luis "Tito" Varela.

Malonzo is gunning for a third and last term.

"Ask anyone in Caloocan and you'll know Bobby and I are unbeatable," Asistio told the INQUIRER yesterday. "*Patay `yang si* Malonzo *at* Varela (Malonzo and Varela won't make it)."

The lawmaker's last-minute modification of his lineup for the May elections obviously shocked opposition Councilor Henry Cammayo, whom Asistio had earlier announced as his running mate.

"It's all right," a gloomy Cammayo said in a telephone interview. "It's (Asistio's) right. All I want is public service. I guess I'll just have to think of my next move. I didn't know of the decision."

Cammayo said Asistio had not told him of Guanzon's candidacy and he only learned about it when the INQUIRER sought his reaction.

In Manila, Lopez said Malacañang had given him blanket authority to form the coalition's official lineup in the May elections.

He said the party would field "a mixture of incumbents, youthful leaders and entrepreneurs, professionals, and returning congressmen and councilors" in Manila politics.

Manila's mayor from 1988 to 1992, Lopez lost a bid for reelection against former Western Police District commander Alfredo Lim. But he said he is ready to lead the ticket of the coalition, which is composed of the administration party Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, Kampi, Aksiyon Demokratiko, Promdi, and non-government organizations.

"We already have a tentative lineup but we expect to make some adjustments after the final consultation with coalition partners," Lopez said.

Reelectionist Rep. Ernesto Nieva, former Councilor Honorio "Boy" Lopez, Arsenio Villalon Jr., and Benjamin Asilo of Manila's first district are already assured of slots.

Undefeated three-termer Rep. Jim Lopez leads the second-district ticket, which includes former Councilor Flaviano Concepcion, Liza Beltran, Jimmy Santiago, Albert Lim, Rolando Valeriano and Ebilin Domingo.

Evangelist and former Councilor Benny Abante Jr. will run for congressman of the city's sixth district.

The current lineup for the city council includes Councilors Alex Co, Jonjon Logarta and Buddy Lachica (third district); Councilor Don Bagatsing, former Councilor Victorino Melendrez, and Dr. Rolando Nieto (fourth district).

Former Councilor Felix Espiritu, Jerry "Boy" Condinera, Louie Gonzales, and Gilbert Yupangco (fifth district); Rosauro Macapagal, Dr. Peter Caballes, Marissa Papa, Leoncio Nadal, and Jayson Marticio (sixth district).

Lopez said the lineup for the third, fourth and fifth districts would be completed in the next few days.

Woman stabbed trying to protect son from attack

A 41-YEAR-OLD mother in Antipolo City is now in critical condition after she was stabbed while trying to prevent a neighbor from hurting her son Sunday night.

Estrella Calindoy and her son Richard, 18, of Barangay Cupang, Antipolo City, are being treated for stab wounds at the Amang Rodriguez Hospital in Marikina City.

Investigators said Richard and neighbor Percibal de la Paz, 23, had an argument while discussing something at about 8 p.m. Sunday.

Enraged by something Richard said, De la Paz allegedly pulled a fan knife from under his shirt and stabbed Richard in the stomach.

Calindoy just then tried to stop De la Paz from hitting her son again, but she was hit in the chest, police said.

The suspect is still at large.

Agnes E. Donato

RP sports also crying for change

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(DRIED UP: My friend Hermie Rivera writes from California to call on former world boxing champion Luisito Espinosa, whom he had discovered and developed, to leave the ring for good. Says Hermie: "It pains me no end to witness the easily perceived erosion of skills of the once-feared 'Lindol,' as Smokin' Joe Cantada loved to call Louie. Espinosa's decline became more pronounced when he tumbled in four against the less-calibered Augie Sanchez. The well from where the former two-time world champ drew power has irrevocably dried up." In addition, Hermie clarifies that Luisito indeed once left their house in Singalong after a spat with his wife. Having no fare money, Luisito had to walk to his relative's place in Sta. Mesa (not Novaliches) where he had a decent meal. Hermie felt terribly sad, but he said he succeeded in holding back the tears.)

* * *

SUN Tua, Tuazon. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has announced with unconcealed pride that her husband is a descendant of a rich Chinese clan that subsequently adopted the famous Tuazon surname.

That claim had visibly warmed the hearts of Lucio Tan and other big Chinese traders who trooped to Malacañang in full force to protect their selfish interest.

Lucio Tan may have no blood relation whatsoever with that legendary Sun Tua which the President had proudly spoken of.

But the President has herself decreed that her administration will not entertain deals with any of her relatives or that of First Husband Mike Tuason Arroyo.

So does this mean that Philippine Sports Commission Chair Butch Tuason, a first cousin of Mr. Arroyo, cannot be retained in his government position?

The first time I asked this question, it was in reference to a claim by the PSC chief that the President's ruling, the first in her tenure, did not cover him.

Nothing wrong with Mr. Tuason staying on at PSC, I maintained. But he also has to show proof, in the form of achievements, on why he should be rewarded with a continued stay as head of the key sports agency.

I have dug, and also asked around, for something nice and solid Mike Arroyo's first cousin could show as a sort of scorecard.

Did Butch Tuason, a trusted ally of Erap Estrada, beat par?

* * *

More surprised than terrified, Tisha Abundo, who resigned in disgust as PSC commissioner over what she alleged were serious funds misappropriations by Butch Tuason et al., rang up to bare what she felt was a result of my call.

Ms Abundo said she bore the brunt of Mr. Tuason's ire over what I had written. She said she was threatened with a lawsuit.

"Maybe they thought I had tipped you off on their misdeeds," Ms Abundo explained.

It was the first time I had heard from her in ages. I also wondered how she managed to get my phone number.

"They really felt very bad about what you have written," she continued. "They really felt the pinch, now they are trying to slam me."

She said she was being put in a spot for having hired a consultant while still a PSC commissioner. In truth, she said, it was not a consultant per se. She said she took somebody in to assist her in (sports) talent identification.

* * *

For the record, Tisha Abundo is herself not even a distant niece of the Sun Tua, a confirmed great grandfather of our not-so-great PSC chair, Butch Sun Tua.

It is not, however, surprising that Ms Abundo's name is being floated as one of the candidates for PSC commissioner. The other big names in the unofficial list of probables include baseball great Boy Codiñera, former basketball icon Mon Fernandez, who are both my beer buddies.

I don't know who submitted Mon Fernandez's name. But I have read that Codiñera was recommended by no less than ex-Manila Mayor Mel Lopez, who had also served as PSC chief.

That story on Codiñera carried with it his credentials. I will not bother to rerun them. After all, everybody here who claims to know Philippine sports should be familiar with the guy's true merit. He could be good enough for the top post.

Tisha Abundo? Well, those in doubt could ask around. For as long as the investigator doesn't end up at the office of the current PSC chair, he should be repaid with a pleasant list of this sportswoman's various concerns.

* * *

Unfortunately, Tisha has a bigger problem.

If Mr. Tuason is retained by Madame Cousin-in-Law, it goes without saying that Ms Abundo would not be part of the PSC team.

But if, in the distant event that Butch Tuason is replaced, an assignment as PSC commissioner for Abundo would be a resounding slap in the face of Mike Arroyo's first cousin.

You bet this is getting to be complicated. But the clamor keeps getting louder every day for President Arroyo to resolve the national sports leadership issue.

It's not really sweet suspense they're experiencing out there in the vicinity of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, seat of the RP sports hierarchy.

Each day of waiting diminishes the chances of the Philippines to improve on its dismal showing in the Southeast Asian Games, whose next staging is set in Kuala Lumpur in September.

The President should be reminded that the delay could be used by whoever takes over at PSC as a convenient alibi for another sporting debacle.

President Arroyo, we beg, should not allow her indecision to be the excuse for impending failure.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 7, 2000
5th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 2:5-9, 15-17
Gospel: Mk 7:14-23

Jesus called the people to him again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and try to understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can make that person unclean. It is what comes out from within that makes unclean. Let everyone who has ears listen."

When Jesus got home and was away from the crowd, his disciples asked him about this saying and he replied, "So even you are dull? Do you not see that whatever comes from outside cannot make a person unclean? Since it enters, not the heart but the stomach and is finally passed out."

Thus Jesus declared that all foods are clean.

And he went on, "What comes out of a person is what defiles, for evil designs come out of the heart: theft, murder, adultery, jealousy, greed, maliciousness, deceit, indecency, slander, pride and folly. All these evil things come from within and make a person unclean."

Commentary

We feel cheated when we buy products with fancy packaging that yield a lousy content when opened up. Hypocrisy is when what is projected outside is not reflective of what is inside a person. Perhaps there is nothing more prone to hypocrisy than religion, as it concerns things that are not immediately visible outside. The image of the Sacred Heart pictures Jesus with his heart exposed. It is probably the best representation of the kind of transparency that today's Gospel extols as a virtue. It has to do with the truthful externalization of our most inward thoughts and desires.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY)—Qualified rape— Section 335 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Section 11 of R.A. No. 7659, penalizes rape of a minor daughter by her father as qualified rape and a heinous crime. In proving such felony, the prosecution must allege and prove the elements of rape: (1) sexual congress; (2) with woman; (3) by force or without her consent and, in order to warrant the imposition of capital punishment, the additional elements that: (4) the victim is under 18 years of age at the time of the rape and (5) the offender is a parent of the victim. In this case, it was sufficiently alleged and proved that the offender was the victim's father. But the victim's age was not properly and sufficiently proved beyond reasonable doubt. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Tundag, G.R. Nos. 135695-96, October 12, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Technicians 'approve' temporary dump

By Amy Baimbridge

IF NEGOTIATIONS would run smoothly, Metro Manila's garbage would finally have a dump.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said that technicians had "approved" a temporary garbage-processing site for the waste of the metropolis.

But a contract to use the site must be negotiated further, Abalos said.

He said the company, which he did not identify, wanted three conditions satisfied before it would enter into a contract to use the site.

"They also want an environmental compliance certificate. Most importantly, they want an assurance that Metro Manila would use the area and for how many years."

Abalos said the company had asked for a time-line for how long its service would be needed. He said this was because the site would require a lot of equipment to set up and investment was at stake.

"The amount of investment they would also put there is tremendous," he explained. "So I told them to compute how much, more or less, would be the return on the investment in how many years.

"We are lucky we have people who are investing," he added. "Let us be fair to (them)."

But he maintained that the contract would not be long-term. The initial proposal for the contract was for about eight months to one year.

He said it would only take about five days for the company to set up its equipment and start processing the raw garbage materials.

"If everything is okay, then they can really start sorting our garbage," he said.

He said the processing plant for raw materials would employ no less than 1,000 people.

The company requires a minimum 2,000 tons of garbage guaranteed to be delivered to the site each day.

Some 6,000 tons of garbage a day is currently produced in Metro Manila. About 120,000 tons of garbage now litter city streets.

Abalos was set to hold an emergency meeting with Metro Manila mayors last night to discuss the contractual provisions.

He has still not revealed the location of the site, though he hinted on Monday it was in Luzon. But he said it would not be a dumpsite or landfill.

Since the San Mateo dump was closed two weeks ago, Metro Manila has been deluged with 40,000 tons of rubbish.

MMDA's short-term solution to the garbage crisis follows Supreme Court orders stopping the dumping of garbage at the San Mateo Sanitary Landfill in San Mateo in Rizal and parts of Antipolo City, on Semirara Island in Antique and in Capas, Tarlac.

Cop's son runs wild, hurts mom, wife

A SON of a Caloocan policeman is facing multiple criminal charges after he allegedly ran amuck and injured at least four people, including his mother and his live-in partner on Monday.

Caloocan police are set to file charges of frustrated parricide, slight physical injury, direct assault, resisting arrest, malicious mischief and two counts of alarms and scandal against Joel Reginald Calma, 23, of KBS Compound, Kapanalig Street, Caloocan.

The suspect is said to be the son of PO2 Rene Calma of the Caloocan Police Traffic Management Unit.

PO3 Rolando Domingo said the young Calma, reeking with liquor, suddenly went berserk at about 11:30 p.m. Monday for no apparent reason. Calma took a steel pipe and hit his mother Rosalinda, 46, on the forehead, and injured his live-in partner Cynthia Villanueva, 23, police said.

When the victims sought assistance, Calma allegedly vented his ire on Manuel Gacutan.

While Calma was brought to the Station Investigation and Intelligence Division of the Caloocan police, he allegedly attacked PO2 Arnel de Guzman, ripping the investigator's polo shirt.

Calma then started kicking office equipment, police said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Three Chinese yield 1 kilo of shabu in Binondo bust

AGENTS of the Department of Interior and Local Government on Monday arrested three Chinese and seized from them a kilo of shabu during a buy-bust operation in Binondo, Manila.

The task force has filed charges against Lim Shu Hai alias Ramon Lim, 40; Wang Shizi alias William Ong, 20; and Tai Ti Yun, 45. It was Tai who handed over P1 million worth of the illegal substance to a man who posed as a buyer in Room 518 of Skyrise Hotel in Binondo around midnight of Feb. 6.

Wang and Tai were staying at the hotel while Lim was at the Dynasty Tower on Bambang Street in Tondo, said the task force.

Police Supt. Carlos Baltasar, the task force chief, said the three men had been running drugs in the country for almost a year before an informant tipped them off to authorities.

A 10-man team headed by Insp. Nelson Yabut put the suspects under surveillance for a week. *Volt Contreras*

Graft raps filed . . .

(From page A21)

The resolution was forgotten after Serana's term ended and Bugayong was elected on Jan. 1.

Bugayong said Serana's brother Jose Ian Serana, an incorporator of the OSR Foundation, withdrew the money from Land Bank on Oct. 25, 2000, a day after the PMS released the check.

When University Secretary Martin V. Gregorio asked her on Jan. 30 where the money was, Serana first said it was with the contractor. When pressed further, she admitted it was with her brother, Bugayong added.

The P15-million fund mess is also beginning to worry the Commission on Higher Education.

CHEd chair Ester Garcia on Monday said she would allow the UP administration to "exhaust all administrative remedies" to resolve the controversial issue, but promised to step in if university officials were found "remiss" in their duties.

Garcia said CHEd "can only come in if there has been (a lapse in) due process; we will just have to wait and see."

Rep. Ernesto Herrera (Lakas, Bohol) chided the PMS yesterday for its role in the scam.

"The former (PMS) officials concerned should be investigated for endorsing a dubious project and putting the government at a disadvantage," Herrera said.

He explained that under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, officials may be held liable for entering into a transaction that is grossly disadvantageous to the government, even if they did not gain financially from the transaction.

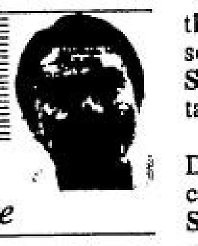
Four high-visibility sequels

SEQUELS are as much a part of the movie landscape as original movies. In addition, they have the extra advantage of "brand name" recall. No wonder many successful movies are soon reprised in sequel form.

Unfortunately, many sequels turn out to be inferior to their successful originals. That's either because the new films merely ride on the popularity of the first movies, or the original productions' premise is too limited to "support" the other movies that are made about them.

That's why some stars refuse to act in sequels of their hits. Despite this natural aversion, however, many sequels are still being made, for the simple reason that the money's good, and production companies have to exert less effort to "sell" sequels to the viewing public.

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

Here are four high-visibility sequels that we'll get to see this year:

Hannibal" tops the list because it's an update on the hit psychological thriller-chiller, "The Silence of the Lambs." **Jodie Foster** said no-thank-you to doing this sequel but **Anthony Hopkins** is still on board as the contemporary impersonation of evil genius, **Hannibal Lecter.**

How does the new film build on the original movie's plot? Its screenplay, by **David Mamet** and **Steven Zaillian,** no less, takes this tack:

Seven years have passed since Dr. Hannibal Lecter escaped from custody after FBI Agent **Clarice Starling** interviewed him in a maximum security hospital for the criminally insane.

The doctor is now at large in Europe, pursuing various interests and savoring the scents and essences of an unguarded world.

But Starling has never forgotten her encounters with Dr. Lecter, and the metallic rasp of his seldom-used voice still haunts her dreams.

For his part, **Mason Verger** also remembers Dr. Lecter, and is obsessed with revenge. Verger was Dr. Lecter's sixth victim. Though hideously disfigured, he has survived to rule a vast financial empire.

Verger soon realizes that, in order to draw the mad doctor out into the open, he must use someone Lector cannot resist as bait: Clarice Starling.

Starling is now being played by **Julianne Moore** and "Hannibal" is directed by none other than Ridley Scott. Its other stars include **Ray Liotta, Giancarlo Giannini** and **Francesca Neri.**

"The Mummy" is also up for a sequel, titled—as expected—"The Mummy Returns." **Brendan Fraser** and **Rachel Weisz** are back in harness again, as are other original cast members like **John Hannah, Arnold Vosloo, Oded Fehr** and **Patricia Velasquez,** who are joined by new actor **Freddie Boath** and The Rock.

What's the story this time? "The Mummy Returns" is set in 1935, 10 years after the events of the first film. **Rick O'Connell** (Fraser) is now married to **Evelyn** (Weisz) and the couple has settled in London, where they are raising their nine-year-old son **Alex** (Boath).

Then a chain of events finds the corpse of **Imhotep** (Vosloo) resurrected in the British Museum. The mummy Imtohep walks the earth once more, determined to fulfill his quest for immortality.

But another force has also been set loose in the world, one born out of the darkest rituals of ancient Egyptian mysticism, and even more powerful than Imhotep.

When these two forces clash, the fate of the world hangs in the balance, sending the O'Connells on a desperate race to save the world from unspeakable evil, and to rescue their son before it's too late.

"Jurassic Park III" is also slated to be shown this year, with **Sam Neill, William H. Macy** and **Téa Leoni** in the stellar cast. Screenplay is by **Peter Buchman** and direction is by **Joe Johnston.** The series started with "Jurassic Park" in 1993, and its 1997 sequel was titled "The Lost World: Jurassic Park 2."

Finally, "American Pie 2" still stars **Jason Biggs,** with **Shannon Elizabeth, Mena Suvari, Chris Klein** and **Thomas Ian Nicholas. J.B. Rogers** directs from a script by **Adam Herz.**

The hope is that most if not all of these four sequels will turn out to be at least as eventful as the original films.

Kuh Ledesma sets her sights on politics

IF SHE had given her nod earlier on, **Kuh Ledesma** would have joined politics in 1998, when she was offered by Manila Mayor **Lito Atienza** to be his running mate. But Kuh wasn't ready to toss her hat into the political ring at that time.

This time, though, Kuh is more certain that she wants to embark on a political career. However, in case others are wont to raise their eyebrows that Kuh is just another show biz personality who wants to enter politics, the pop diva is not shifting gears without preparing herself.

"I want to be really prepared by 2004 and be worthy of the position," Kuh says.

For this coming elections, Kuh is helping a party list, which will draft three representatives to Congress. She wants to gather at least 1.5 million votes for the Pinatubo party list which will be composed of candidates that will help improve the economy.

"I am definitely committed to this party list and I am lending my name to it," Kuh says. "I believe in this cause. We also want to help the urban poor nationwide."

Being on the thick of political events is nothing new to Kuh. She joined anti-Erap groups in front of the Senate during the impeachment trial. And she was in Edsa during the four-day revolt, which eventually led Estrada to leave Malacañang.

Days after Pres. **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** took her oath of office, Kuh also led a group of show biz personalities who protested the appointments of traditional politicians to the government.

To others, Kuh was simply making noise, but she thinks otherwise.

"Noise is good as long as someone is listening and doing something about it," she says. "Noise is bad if it has no basis. I'd like to think we've been effective in protesting the appointments. It's time to get the people involved."

In the past, Kuh never endorsed a candidate, but she said she is now lending her name to a candidate in Pasay City, where she resides.

"Pasay has not changed," Kuh maintains. "I am now very vigilant in choosing the candidate whom I will endorse. In my own way, I've been doing my survey by sitting down with barangay *tanods*, going to the streets and feeling the pulse of the people, talking with NGOs and even to Sis. **Christine Tan.**

"I will announce the candidate I will support. I was thinking that if I just sit at home and complain, nothing is going to happen. It's so unfair if someone sits there and we don't see a change."

On running for public office three years from now, Kuh says, "I'm interested, not just because of my name. If the people feel that I can do the job and I feel the same, why not?

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"We are always looking for something in life unless we become very passive. We continue to dream."

But before her political salvo, Kuh will get busy onstage for her Valentine show, "Symphony of K," Feb. 14 at the Hard Rock Café.

Kuh will be joined by the string section of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra — eight violinists and an acoustic bassist, plus a pianist, under the musical direction of **Rey Cristobal.**

The Hard Rock show comes as a surprise to the many fans of Kuh who are used to seeing her perform in a hotel ballroom on Valentine's Day.

"Valentine's Day is not complete without a show for me," Kuh asserts. "There was really a plan for me to do a show in a hotel, but it was called off. I didn't want to do anything big because of the uncertain times. The Hard Rock show is a perfect alternative."

Kuh's repertoire will include songs from her new "Duets" album, standards, some cuts from her "Akuhstic" CD and a song from "Evita."

"It's the best time to do love songs," Kuh says. "I remember one Valentine when I was brokenhearted and it was so hard for me to sing all those romantic tunes. I'm very romantic. I'm a sucker for love, so I like singing romantic songs."

On Feb. 12, Kuh will also have a pre-Valentine show at her own restaurant-bar, Republic of Malate.

Reyes in Berlin for 'Toro'

WHEN the Europeans viewed **Joey Reyes'** "Toro" (now retitled "Live Show") during the Berlin International Film Festival more than a year ago, they were both marveled and moved by the stark realities that they saw. It's about time local moviegoers get a chance to feel the same, as "Live Show" finally gets a green light from local censors to be shown in the theaters.

"Live Show" is a painfully honest look at the lives of live sex performers in the seedy side of Manila. Reyes himself produced the film under the Available Light banner for Regal Entertainment.

If it had been another director, "Live Show" would have been easily tagged as just another bold, if not porno flick which will merit an "X-rating" from local censors. But Reyes brings to the movie his directorial genius, which has earned for him not just awards but also critical acclaim and box office bonanza.

In Berlin, Reyes spoke with conviction and passion about "Live Show:"

"Staged in the deserted theaters and sleazy hovels in the armpits of Manila, the live sex shows beckon the curious and the perverse. These performances are called 'toro.'

"This form of 'entertainment' is not unique to the Philippines. Other Asian countries provide this kind of 'tourist attraction,' wherein guests are either awed or appalled by the kind of show staged.

"Live performers of 'toreros' render unbelievable sexual feats by exhibiting contortions and distortions of the human form in front of a gaping audience.

"The ultimate act of human degradation is the metaphor of my film. The struggle of the 'toreros' to exist in the Third World by surrendering their dignity and all traces of hope is recorded through the eyes of one of their own. Burdened by the economic crisis that hit Asia, poverty has never known a more painful definition by desensitizing people into earning a living not matter what the cost.

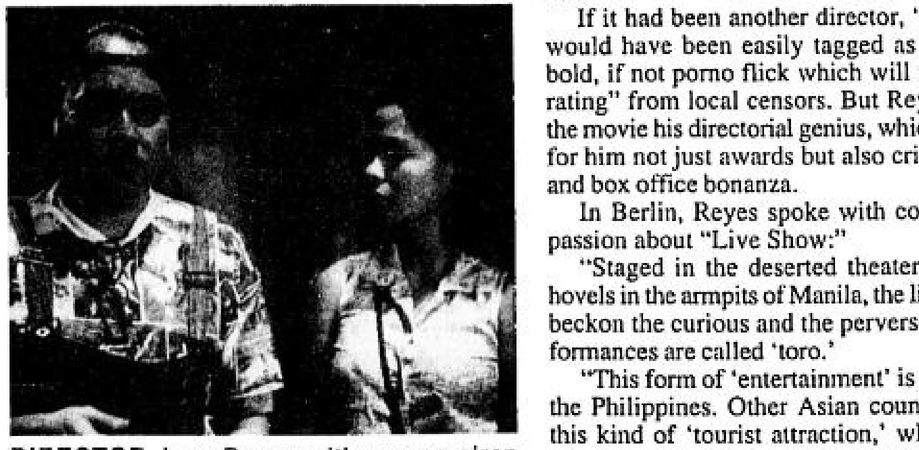
"The film itself has recently been caught up in the center of controversy in the Philippines. Guardians of decency have taken to the streets screaming their complaints on what they see as a proliferation of local movies that utilize nudity and allegedly border on the pornographic. Because of this major uproar, the very title of the film has also been condemned due to its sexual connotations.

"Moreover, a director's cut has been necessitated to ensure the existence of the film in its original form, while avoiding violation of the norms set by an angry sector of moralists and politicians.

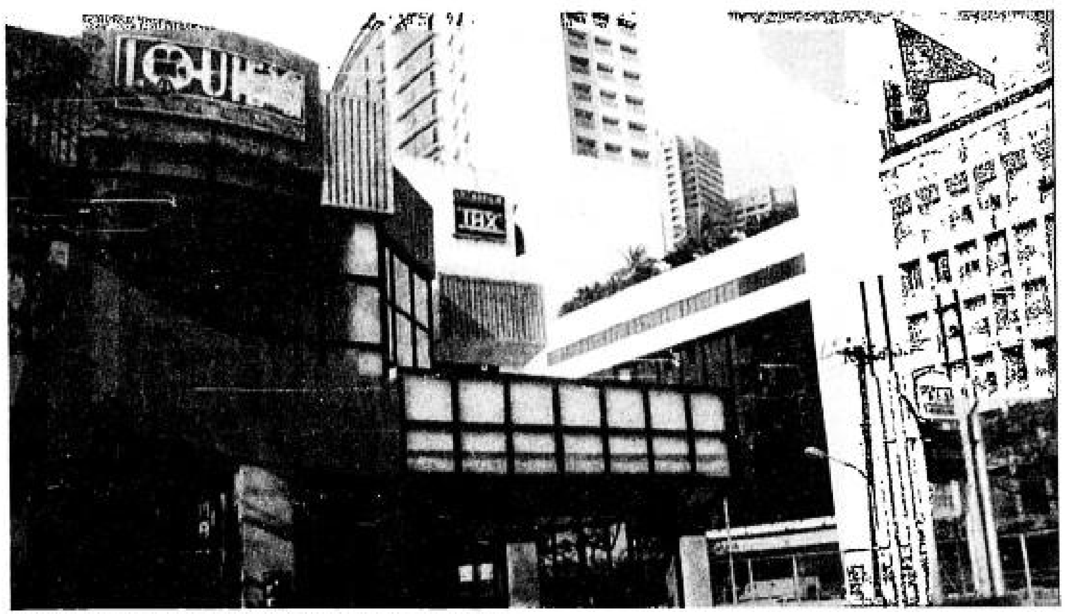
"'Toro' is not only about a marginalized group of people pretending to have a life and surviving the curse of poverty in the Third World. It is my statement about human beings being trapped by circumstance not of their own making, and powers not of their choice."

"Live Show" stars sex kittens **Ana Capri, Klaudia Koronel** and **Hazel Espinosa,** with a host of screen hunks led by newcomer **Paolo Rivero, Simon Ibarra, Marcus Madrigal, Oliver Hartmann** and **Martin Gonzalo. Daria Ramirez** and **Harlene Bautista** also star.

LEDESMA. She is not shifting gears without preparing herself.



DIRECTOR Joey Reyes with screen siren Ana Capri, one of the lead stars of the controversial film, "Live Show."



PIONEER OF THX TECHNOLOGY

Louie's THX Cinema, the pioneer of THX technology in the Philippines, is still the place to be in Makati, despite the opening and re-opening of various theaters in the district. What makes Louie's THX special is its unique concept of "business for a cause." The cinema is located along Amorsolo St., beside Mile Long Arcade in Makati City.

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Ogie holds concert, releases new album

POP singer Ogie Alcasid is grateful with all the blessings that he received the past year. Aside from a best-selling album, hit songs and toprating TV shows, Ogie was the most awarded male performer.

He is the recipient of the Male OPM Artist of the Year given by RX 93.1, as well as the Awit Award for song of the year and best ballad recording, and the best male music video of the year of the Philippines MTV Awards, all for the song "Kung Mawawala Ka."

Ogie also received the Aliw Awards for best male performer in music lounges, bars, clubs and restaurants.

ALCASID

Meanwhile, Ogie's new album, "Movie Moments" under MCA-Universal, is scheduled to be released later this month. The new album contains Ogie's version of the hit song "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," the hit composition he made for good friend Regine Velasquez, as well as a revival of the '70s love song, "Moment By Moment," plus other classic movie themes.

Ogie is going to give a sneak preview of his new album in his forthcoming Valentine's concert, "Moments of Love."

The show will be held on Feb. 14 at Nth Degree, 1547 Adriatico St., Malate. Tickets at P800 are available at the gate.

Zsa Zsa sings in Alabang

ON Feb. 11, Sunday before Valentine's Day, Divine Diva Zsa Zsa Padilla returns to the Alabang Town Center stage, this time to serenade lovers and families in a dinner-concert at the Town Plaza.

Accompanied only by a pianist, Zsa Zsa sets the romantic mood of this intimate dinner-show with her enthralling voice. She will perform ballads that have become love anthems through the years.

Interested parties can call the restaurants for reservations: Almon Marina at 807-5814, Delifrance at 807-5022, Dulcinea at 807-5816 and Herc's Pizza, Pasta, Presto at 807-6138.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	PROOF OF LIFE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
3	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	IKA - 7 GLORYA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW		9350749
1	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA - 7 GLORYA
3	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	PROOF OF LIFE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTANG BAYAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

SM CITY MANILA		5239240
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	PROOF OF LIFE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOUNCE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DUDE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA - 7 GLORYA
8	DOLBY SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
1	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	IKA - 7 GLORYA
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	BOUNCE
4	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA		9295452
1	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BOOBA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	IKA - 7 GLORYA
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
7	DTS	PROOF OF LIFE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALHIBONG PUSA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DUDE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

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3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	PROOF OF LIFE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
10	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER

TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO

SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
7	DOLBY SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY

SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	MEET THE PARENTS
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BALAHIBONG PUSA
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RED PLANET
5	ULTRA SURROUND	DUDE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	REMEMBER THE TITANS
8	ULTRA SURROUND	DUWAG LANG SUMUSUKO

SM PAMPANGA		7128015
1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DUDE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	BOOBA
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SYOTA NG BAYAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TABI TABI PO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT

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1 VITAL PARTS
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 BOOBA
4 VERTICAL LIMIT

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound
1 VERTICAL LIMIT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 BOUNCE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 PROOF OF LIFE THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 SPLENDOR (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5 WHAT WOMEN WANT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 WHAT WOMEN WANT in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 THE CONTENDER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT
1 BOUNCE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 PROOF OF LIFE in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 VERTICAL LIMIT in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 SOON TO OPEN Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 PROOF OF LIFE THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 VERTICAL LIMIT in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 WHAT WOMEN WANT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 BOUNCE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 THE CONTENDER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
2 (SDDS) WHAT WOMEN WANT
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 GOLD (DTS) BOUNCE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE CONTENDER
6 GOLD (SDDS) CLOSED
7 GOLD (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 TABI TABI PO
9 BOOBA
10 VITAL PARTS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 TABI TABI PO
2 IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 (DTS) BOOBA
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) PROOF OF LIFE
2 (DTS) IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 VERTICAL LIMIT

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 IKA - 7 GLORYA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 IKA - 7 GLORYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) VERTICAL LIMIT
5 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 VITAL PART
2 IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 RESERVE
5 PROOF OF LIFE
6 VERTICAL LIMIT
7 BOOBA
8 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
1 HAPDI
2 MALICE 5
3 UNDERCOVER KID
4 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00
5 –
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
1 WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30 00
2 SAMBAHIN ANG PURI MO
3 MEN
4 ANINO

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SUGATANG PUSO
2 REMEMBER THE TITANS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
2 IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 VERTICAL LIMIT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 IKA - 7 GLORYA
A SYOTA NG BAYAN

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1 BOOBA
3 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) VITAL PARTS
2 BOOBA
3 TABI TABI PO
4 WHAT WOMEN WANT
5 BOUNCE
6 IKA - 7 GLORYA
7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 (SDDS) THE CONTENDER
9 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 PROOF OF LIFE
4 VITAL PARTS
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 VITAL PARTS
3 IKA - 7 GLORYA
4 (SDDS) THE CONTENDER
5 BOUNCE
6 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
7 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
8 TABI TABI PO
9 BOOBA

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
2 IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 TABI TABI PO
4 BOUNCE
5 (SDDS) THE CONTENDER
6 BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) VERTICAL LIMIT
8 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 THE CONTENDER
2 BOUNCE
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
6 (DOLBY) BOOBA
7 (DOLBY) IKA - 7 GLORYA

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 IKA - 7 GLORYA

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 IKA - 7 GLORYA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson IKA - 7 GLORYA
Lords TABI TABI PO
Jennet IKA - 7 GLORYA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 IKA - 7 GLORYA
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 THE CONTENDER
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 IKA - 7 GLORYA

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 THE CONTENDER
3 BOUNCE
4 SYOTA NG BAYAN
5 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
4 TABI TABI PO
5 THE CONTENDER
6 PROOF OF LIFE

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 IKA - 7 GLORYA
3 PROOF OF LIFE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 VITAL PARTS
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
3 (DOLBY) VITAL PARTS
4 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) VERTICAL LIMIT
2 VITAL PARTS
3 SYOTA NG BAYAN
4 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) VITAL PARTS
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS) PROOF OF LIFE
4 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
5 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 VITAL PARTS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 VERTICAL LIMIT
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 TABI TABI PO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 PROOF OF LIFE
2 VERTICAL LIMIT
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 VERTICAL LIMIT
2 VIRGIN WIFE
3 IKA - 7 GLORYA
4 TABI TABI PO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 (DTS) VERTICAL LIMIT

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 MALIKOT ANG AGOS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SYOTA NG BAYAN
2 PROOF OF LIFE
3 LITTLE NICKY
4 TABI TABI PO

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 IKA - 7 GLORYA
2 BOOBA
3 TABI TABI PO
4 VERTICAL LIMIT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX)
2
3
4 (DTS EX)

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ERMITA
536-7609-14
❶ VERTICAL LIMIT
❷ THE CONTENDER
❸ WHAT WOMEN WANT
❹ VITAL PARTS
❺ IKA - 7 GLORYA
❻ BOUNCE
❼ PROOF OF LIFE

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❸ VITAL PARTS
❹ PROOF OF LIFE
❺ IKA - 7 GLORYA
❻ WAY OF THE GUN

BACOLOD
(034)441-0463
❶ RED PLANET
❷ BALAHIBONG PUSA
❸ WONDER BOYS
❹ REMEMBER THE TITANS
❺ WHIPPED
❻ THE YARDS

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	BOOBA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	IKA - 7 GLORYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PROOF OF LIFE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	VITAL PARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WHAT WOMAN WANT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BOUNCE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PROOF OF LIFE
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	IKA - 7 GLORYA
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	SYOTA NG BAYAN
MIRAMAR	GUSTO KO LANG LUMIGAYA / LA FEMME EROTIQUE
ODEON	PROOF OF LIFE
ODEON-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
ROBEN	SYOTA NG BAYAN
TANDEM-1	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
TANDEM-2	PALIGAYAHIN MO AKO
TIMES	READY TO RUMBLE / CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	IKA - 7 GLORYA
QUEZON-1	TABI TABI PO
REMAR	SYOTA NG BAYAN
REMAR-2	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	IKA - 7 GLORYA
OCEAN CINEMA-A	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BUKID AY BASA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-2	BOUNCE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SYOTA NG BAYAN
CINEMA-2	TABI TABI PO
CINEMA-3	BOOBA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	IKA - 7 GLORYA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-7	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-8	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WHAT WOMEN WANT
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-12	THE CONTENDER
CINEMA-14	VITAL PARTS
CINEMA-15	BOUNCE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	MALIKOT ANG AGOS
CINEMA-3	HINDI SISIW ANG KALABAN MO
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BOUNCE
CINEMA-2	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-3	BOUNCE
CINEMA-4	PROOF OF LIFE
CINEMA-5	CONTENDER
CINEMA-6	WHAT WOMEN WANT

LOUIE'S CINEMA
LUCASFILM THX It Will Change The Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

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PROOF OF LIFE
(PG-13 RT - 2:05)
Feb. 7 - Wed./8 - Thurs.
6:05 PM - Proof of Life
8:40 PM - Proof of Life
11:15 PM - Proof of Life

CAST AWAY
Tom Hanks / Helen Hunt
opens Wednesday Feb. 14

Get a copy of the 3rd issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema and learn more about Comedy King Dolphy and other Filipino artist. Movie fans & idols

Watch out for our 4th issue WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

Pops, Side A to ignite FAT stage

FERNANDEZ

SIDE A

IT'S the casting coup of the year on the concert scene, no doubt about it, an event worthy of a grand, celebration. Everybody is welcome, young and old alike, and well-wishers are guaranteed a night of fun and laugher, of beautiful songs only the best in the field are capable of dishing out.

For the first time, Concert Queen Pops Fernandez and Concert Kings Side A (Joey Generoso, Kelly Badon, Naldy gonzales, Joey Benin and Ernie Severino) will topbill a concert, "What You See Is What You Get" (or simply WYSIWYG), Feb. 24, 8 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater.

Sharing the stage with the pop artists are The Manoeuvers, Hotlegs Dancers and the Opera as back-up singers. The concert is produced by Eight Designs and Marketing.

"WYSIWYG" is the first major concert of both artists and it promises to be "the mother of all concerts," what with the combined followings of Pops and Side A expected to fill up the Folk Arts Theater.

Side A wowed SRO crowds in several cities in the US (including LA and New York) and Canada late last year during a concert tour with Aga Muhlach; while Pops has had her own hit "pocket" concerts, one of them staged also late last year to mark her birthday.

"I'm excited to perform with the Side A because I've always been a fan of theirs," confesses Pops.

In the same way, the five Side A guys express enthusiasm over the chance to work with Pops.

"We admire her for her versatility not only as a singer but also as an actress."

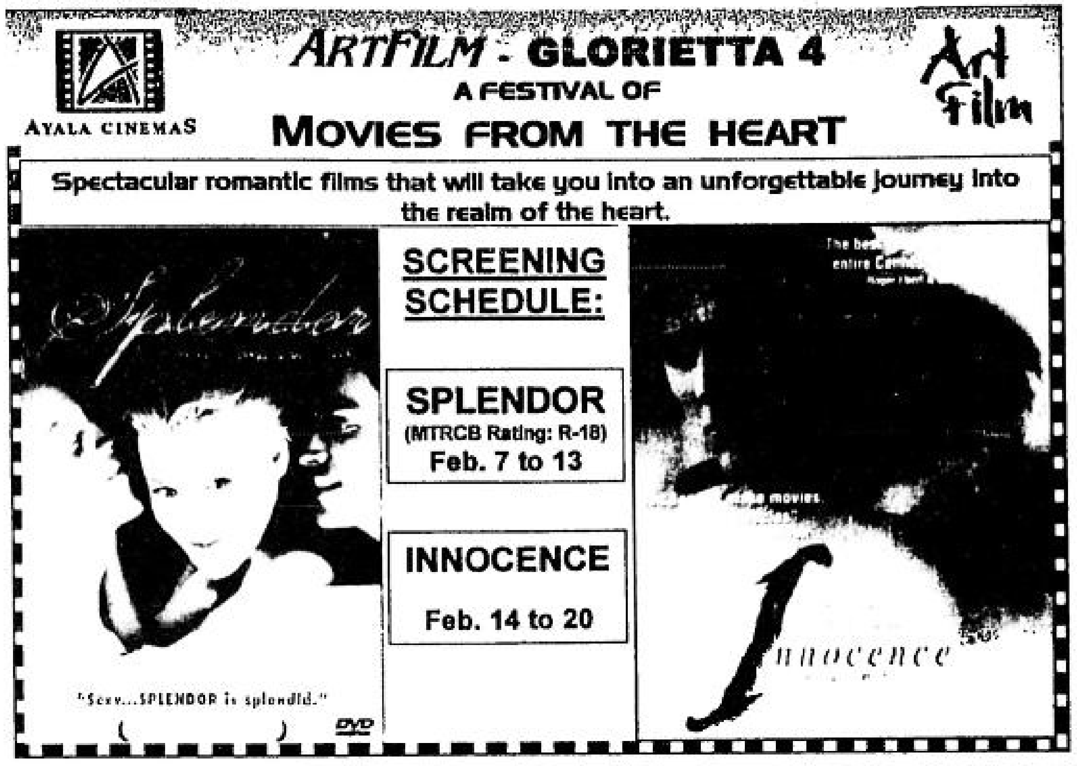
"WYSIWYG" is not only a night of songs but also a big party wherein the audience will be encouraged to groove to the danceable ditties in the repertoire, with Pops singing her own hits—and more—and the Side A guys doing their own hits and also more.

Pops will also perform songs with the five guys as one of the show's highlights.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41

1 BOUNCE 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00	2 VERTICAL LIMIT 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	3 BOUNCE 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
4 PROOF OF LIFE 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	5 THE CONTENDER 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	6 WHAT WOMEN WANT 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI



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MOVIES FROM THE HEART
Art Film
Spectacular romantic films that will take you into an unforgettable journey into the realm of the heart.
SCREENING SCHEDULE:
SPLENDOR
(MTRCB Rating: R-18)
Feb. 7 to 13
INNOCENCE
Feb. 14 to 20
"Sexy...SPLENDOR is splendid."

OPENING TODAY AT SM ILOILO CINEMA 9
8th Pelikula at Lipunan 2001
at 9am
Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon by Eddie Romero
at 11am
Shower
at 1pm
Filipino Short Films by Mowelfund Filmmakers
at 3pm
Mowelfund Short Classics
at 5pm
Southern Winds by Mike De Leon
PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2001
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JOIN US IN THE 1ST MAJOR FILM EVENT OF THE YEAR!
World Premiere at 7pm
PIONEER ILONNGO FILMS!
with Raymond Red's "ANINO"
Featuring the promising talents of Iloilo's own filmmakers!
Teresa Tejero's HULOT
Alan Cabalfin's DIHON
This year's Philippine entry to Kodak's International Competition!
Aileen Ocampo's BATCHOYAN
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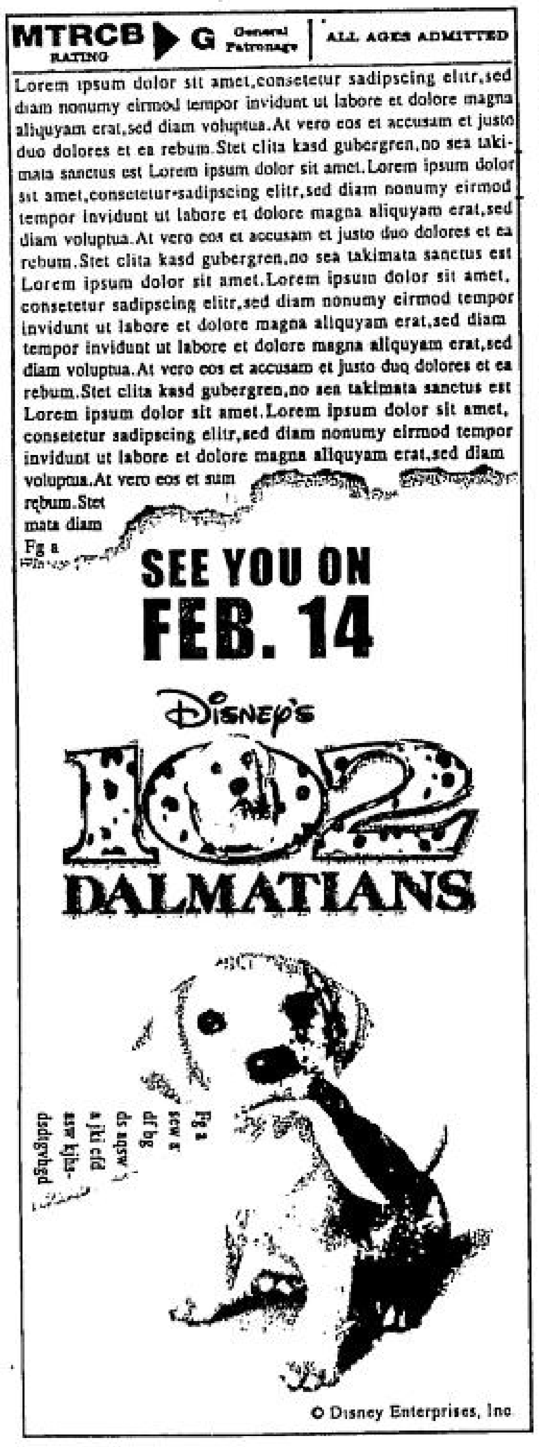

MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,consetetur sadipscing elitr,sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,sed diam voluptua.At vero eos et accusam et justo duo dolores et ea rebum.Stet clita kasd gubergren,no sea takimata sanctus est Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,consetetur-sadipscing elitr,sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,sed diam voluptua.At vero eos et accusam et justo duo dolores et ea rebum.Stet clita kasd gubergren,no sea takimata sanctus est Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur sadipscing elitr,sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,sed diam tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,sed diam voluptua.At vero eos et accusam et justo duo dolores et ea rebum.Stet clita kasd gubergren,no sea takimata sanctus est Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet.Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur sadipscing elitr,sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat,sed diam voluptua.At vero eos et sum rebum.Stet mata diam Fg a
SEE YOU ON FEB. 14
DISNEY'S 102 DALMATIANS
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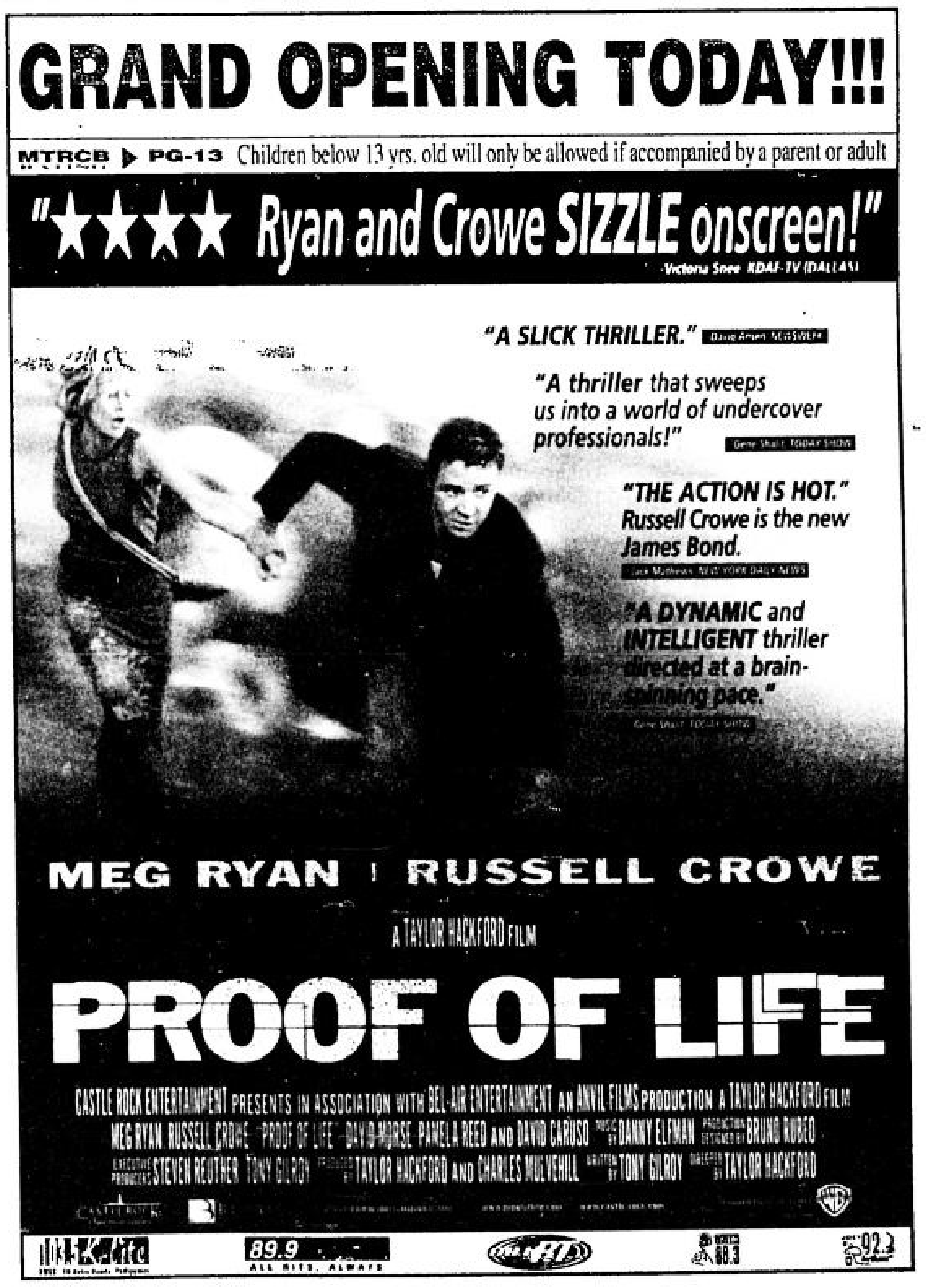
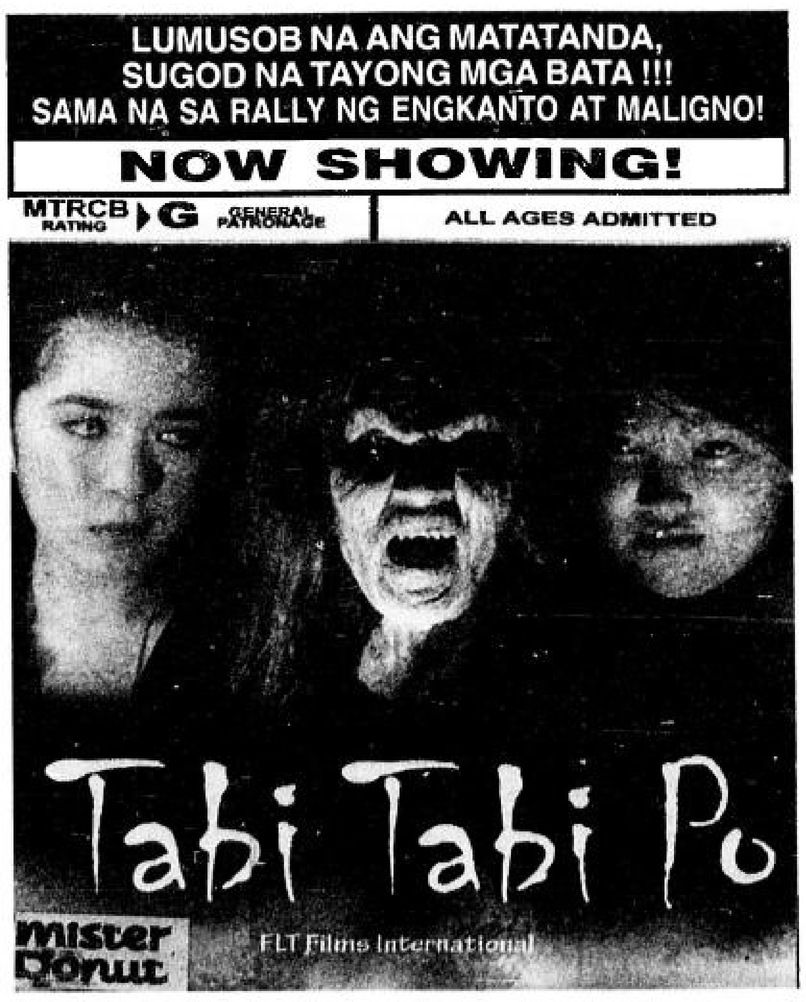
OPENS FEBRUARY 14!
MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted.
Pinky Amador Allan Paule Raffy Anido Ray Ventura Pyar Mirasol and Vda Manzano
Sa Iyong Mga Haplos



GRAND OPENING TODAY!!!
MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"★★★★ Ryan and Crowe SIZZLE onscreen!" -Victoria Snee KDAF-TV (DALLAS)
"A SLICK THRILLER."
"A thriller that sweeps us into a world of undercover professionals!" Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW
"THE ACTION IS HOT." Russell Crowe is the new James Bond.
"A DYNAMIC and INTELLIGENT thriller directed at a brain-spinning pace." Gene Shalit, TODAY SHOW
MEG RYAN RUSSELL CROWE
A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM
PROOF OF LIFE
CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BEL-AIR ENTERTAINMENT AN ANVIL FILMS PRODUCTION A TAYLOR HACKFORD FILM MEG RYAN RUSSELL CROWE "PROOF OF LIFE" DAVID MORSE PAMELA REED AND DAVID CARUSO MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY BRUNO RUBEO EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN REUTHER TONY GILROY PRODUCED BY TAYLOR HACKFORD AND CHARLES MULVEHILL WRITTEN BY TONY GILROY DIRECTED BY TAYLOR HACKFORD
89.9 ALL HITS, ALWAYS



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SUGOD NA TAYONG MGA BATA !!!
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"AN ADRENALINE-PUMPING, HEART-STOPPING ADVENTURE!" NATIONAL NEWS SYNDICATE
"THRILLING! It's top-tier movie escapism." Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE
"ABSOLUTELY THE BEST ACTION FILM OF THE YEAR!"
CHRIS O'DONNELL BILL PAXTON ROBIN TUNNEY SCOTT GLENN
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verticallimit.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Advanced Showing On Friday, February 9 at your Favorite Theaters
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ETO NA ANG BABAENG PUWEDENG PAKASALAN NGUNIT 'DI PUWEDENG ANGKININ ANG KATAWAN!
Piel Morena
FRAGILE! HANDLE WITH CARE !!!
The Virgin Wife
Photographed by Romy Vitug
Written and Directed by Jose N. Carreon
Films International

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'VERTICAL LIMIT'

A fantastic movie about love, family and courage

BY EMMIE G. VELARDE

REVIEW

"FORGET the Mountain," Director Martin Campbell says of his movie. "Forget the snow, forget the conditions. 'Vertical Limit' is a drama that can be played out on flat land, and it would still be a fantastic movie about love, family and courage."

Not true. Personally, I think "love, family and courage" takes a backseat to the mountain, snow, and conditions" here. The Himalayas' K2—second highest peak in the world and the most treacherous ("played" by New Zealand's Mt. Cook)—is the consummate adversary, breathtakingly beautiful and therefore irresistible, inscrutable and therefore unconquerable, and mind-altering like, well, like altitude sickness.

Ask any climber about this mysterious malady.

Symptoms: continuous dry cough, shortness of breath, dizziness, headache, confusion and fatigue.

Cause: Climbing too fast, not allowing the body to adjust or acclimatize. Plus, obviously, extreme lack of breathable air.

Prognosis: A watery swelling of the lungs (known as pulmonary edema) and even the brain tissues (cerebral edema) can occur, leading to cardiac arrest and death.

Sure, these are the exact same risks faced by daily rush-hour commuters on Edsa, and on this score, Campbell may be right, but let's be serious. "Vertical Limit" refers to "death zone," above 24,000 feet where there's not enough oxygen for the body to survive for very long.

"Vertical Limit," the movie, follows the rescue of some experienced but foolhardy climbers, by an experienced but ill-prepared team. Certainly a recipe whose ingredients must include incredible moves and heart-stopping slips.

Don't get me wrong; I enjoyed watching it, trembling in socks and sweater, under a tent-size shawl. I kept thinking, this must be the flipside of that exquisite cable TV video of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy," featuring a series of awesome avalanche scenes in snow-covered mountains. This must be what happens when people fail to comprehend, or even acknowledge, nature's signal: "Gimme a break, get out of my face for a little while; I need to throw a tantrum right about now."

But reading about the making of the movie was, for me, more engaging. Stars Chris O'Donnell, Robin Tunney, Scott Glenn, and Bill Paxton, are said to have done most of their stunts, something the director emphasized by shooting those scenes "all in one shot. You pull back and realize it's the actor on the climb and nobody else." Of course they were shooting at 11,000 feet while pretending and making us believe they're up at 26,000, but hey, that's still the height of at least 10 buildings.

For Tunney, the hairiest day was when she had to perform a Tyrolean Crossing, passing from one to another precipice via a fixed rope, 18 times, over a 4,000-foot drop. She loved it. "A lot of times when you're looking for roles as a woman, you're the girlfriend, or the wife, or the daughter, or the appendage (she should know; she was the devil's darling in 'End of Days'). This woman is very independent, and that's hard to come by."

"This woman" is Annie, sister to Chris O'Donnell's Peter Garrett. She is a climber driven by grief over their father's death three years earlier in an accident during a family outing. Most families have picnics or go malling; the Garretts scaled mountain walls. Peter, who had cut his father's lifeline in order to save himself and his sister, turns his back on the thankless hobby and becomes a photographer for National Geographic. Annie continues to climb renowned peaks, her way of venerating dad, who was a legend in his own time.

The two wounded cubs meet in a base camp on the Himalayas, she on the way up with a manic millionaire, he on the way down from a shoot. A storm brews, but the climbers are undaunted. I thought this was really silly, a brazen beefing up of the thin plot. However, Ed Viesturs, American mountain climber who had summited Everest five times and K2 once—without oxygen—says the situation is typical in the real climbing world.

"A lot of climbers push beyond certain logical limits. As a result, they get into trouble. K2 is a difficult mountain to get up and down alive. That's an extreme allure."

Viesturs, who plays himself in the movie, was among a handful of pros brought in to train, and at times double for, the actors.

The pros, especially Viesturs, were likewise valuable to the actors in fleshing out the characters. Tunney says she can't believe the things she's done. O'Donnell says the best part of the project was brainstorming with the legends, bonding, listening to their stories, just watching them, and being paid doing all that.

I also find Viesturs more interesting than any of the Garretts, and more intriguing than the romantic character Montgomery Wick (Scott Glenn), who resigns himself to the life of an eccentric in a search for the body of his wife, a mountain guide lost in one such snowstorm as the movie depicts. He does find the precious body in an unlikely circumstance, but at that point toward the end of the movie, I could believe anything.

The revered American climber, subject of a PBS documentary, is famous for his superhuman lung capacity, but even he says of moving the body in the death zone: "Just putting on your boots takes half an hour."

Director Campbell admits to having taken in license there, speeding things up a bit: "When you see footage of real climbers, there's five minutes between each footstep."

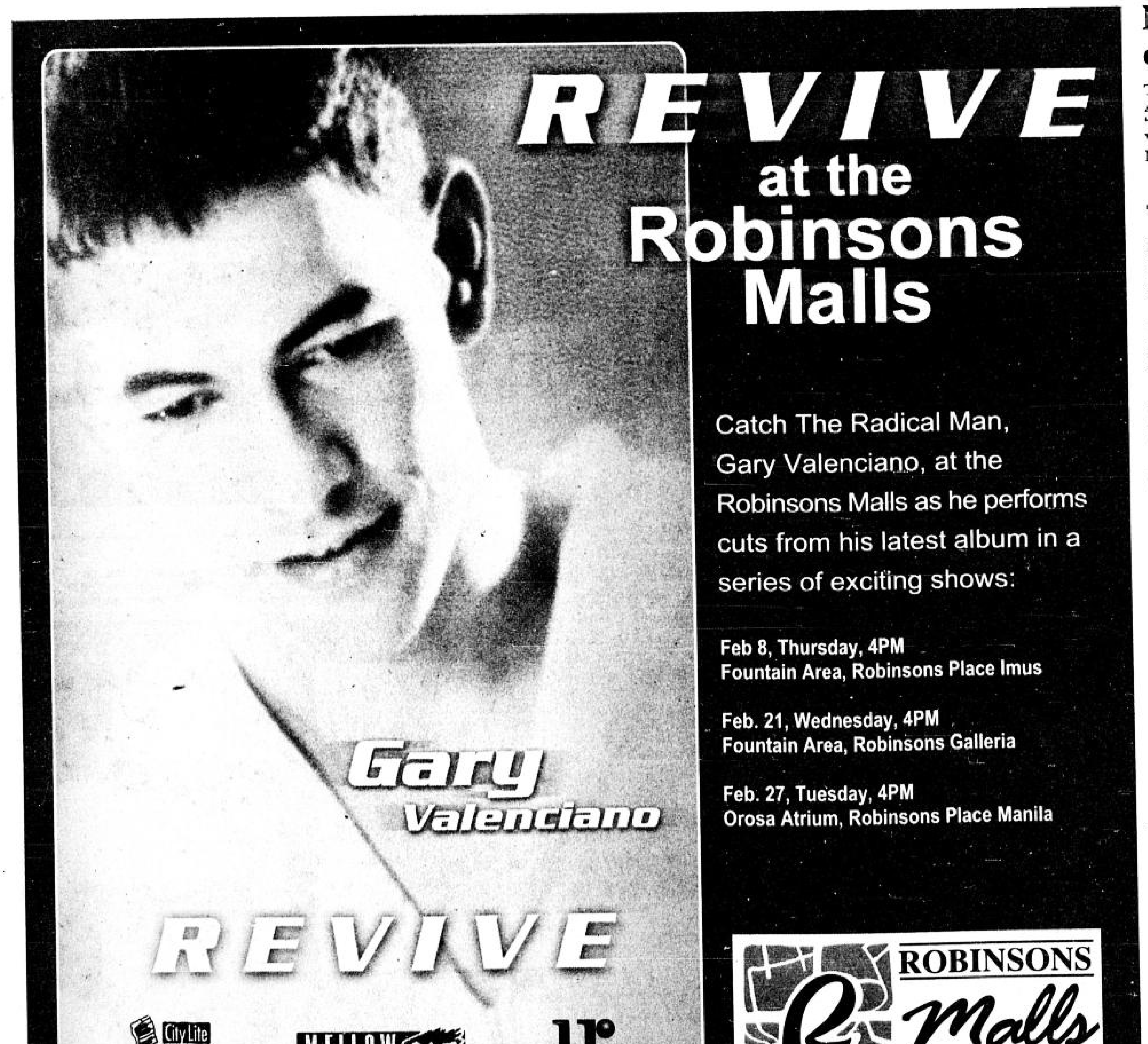
Also, only in my belated reading did I fully understand the significance of the injectable drug that the millionaire climber Vaughn, in the face of excruciating death, would have traded half his fortune and full set of morals for. Dexamethosone or "dex" can temporarily treat altitude sickness until the sufferer gets to a lower altitude.

Given the parallels between altitude sickness and the long-drawn results of living in the city, I truly wonder why climbers bother.

Alexander Siddig as Kareem, the Pakistani porter, has a line that may help: "Everybody dies; what matters is what one does before that."

Now, what would work as dex for flatlanders with that strangely familiar condition officially labeled mountain madness?

UNDAUNTED climber. Actor Chris O'Donnell does his own stunts in "Vertical Limit."



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NCCA premieres docu on Philippine history

THE NATIONAL Commission for Culture and the Arts has scheduled the premiere showing of "Siglo Filipino: Odyssey of a Nation," Feb. 14, Wednesday, 6 p.m. at the NCCA's Tanghalang Leandro V. Locsin in Intramuros.

Another screening will be held on Feb. 21, 2 p.m.

The showing of the video documentary is part of the NCCA's National Arts Month Festival.

"Siglo Filipino" is a retrospective of the most significant events and personalities in Philippine history during the past 100 years, and was written especially for TV by National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin.

"Siglo" also features commentaries and analyses from some of the most respected academicians in their respective fields: Mila Guerrero, O.D. Corpuz, Ricardo Jose, F. Landa Jocano, Nicanor Tiongson, Felipe Miranda and Solita Monsod.

Historical materials for the documentary were extensively researched from various local sources, as well as from the United States National Archives.

Two years in the making, "Siglo Filipino," is an Infinit-1 Production funded by the NCCA, in cooperation with GMA Network in celebration of its 50th anniversary. Philippine Airlines is a participating sponsor.

"Siglo Filipino" was produced and directed by Butch Nolasco, whose previous historical documentary "Jose Rizal: Ang Buhay ng Isang Bayani," won a Gawad CCP Award as well as a finalist's citation for best documentary from the Film Academy of the Philippines in 1997.

The voice-over narration for "Siglo" was delivered by Jose V. Avellana and sound design was by Bing Villegas.

Champagne Morales sang the documentary's theme song, "Himig ng Buhay."

Interested parties may call Elvert Banares or Genvieve Agtay at 527-2207 for more information.

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SMC finalizes $1.2-B deal to buy back local Coke unit

By DORIS C. DUMLAO

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. has finalized a $1.2-billion deal that would allow it to stage a strong comeback in the local soft drinks industry by regaining a controlling stake in Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

Four years after former SMC chair Andres Soriano III swapped its majority control of CCBPI to Coca Cola Amatil (CCA) Ltd. for a minority stake in the Australian bottler, SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. has succeeded in getting it back.

Under the deal, CCA will divest 65 percent of CCBPI to SMC and 35 percent to Coca Cola Corp. of Atlanta. In return, the 219.4 million shares held by SMC and the 149 million shares held by Coke Atlanta in CCA will be cancelled at a price of A$4.75 or P123.5 each.

SMC and Coke Atlanta will also have to jointly pay CCA an additional A$495 million or P12.87 billion equivalent to the stakes they will respectively get in CCBPI.

"With the acquisition of CCBPI, SMC becomes the undisputed leader in the Philippine beverage market. The company further expects to achieve significant synergies and cost savings in areas of distribution and logistics," Cojuangco said.

The local stock market gave its vote of confidence on the deal as SMC "B" shares rose by P1 to close at P64. Analysts said the reacquisition of CCBPI would be a win-win situation specially for CCBPI, whose operations have suffered during the last few years.

GK Goh Securities head of research Ivy Cayayan said: "SMC believes and we also believe that it can turn around the operations of CCBPI. It will be dilutive initially for the shareholders of SMC but there is a long-term upside."

Cayayan said the P900 million in annual equity income derived by SMC from its 21.5 percent in CCA could be easily surpassed with the profits it could churn out from improved CCBPI operations.

For a long time before CCA's entry into the picture, CCBPI was a cash cow for SMC, which owned 70 percent of the soft drinks firm. Before SMC gave up CCBPI in favor of CCA in 1997, it was generating about P3 billion in net income for the conglomerate.

Last year, CCBPI generated revenues of P29 billion and was estimated to be in control of 70 percent of the market.

"This represents the acquisition of an excellent franchise whose products enjoy unrivalled brand loyalty. SMC is confident that it can effectively capture growth prospects and consolidate its position in the beverage industry," Cojuangco said.

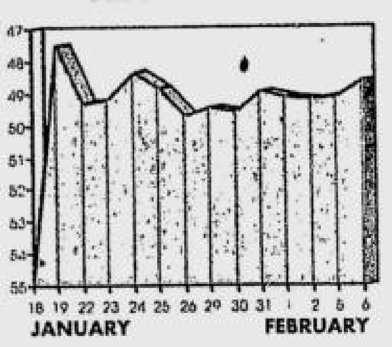
ABN Amro was the financial adviser and Freehills was the legal adviser to SMC for the deal.

Coke Atlanta had long agreed in principle to let SMC regain control of CCBPI because it was disappointed with Amatil's handling of the Coca Cola business in the country. It also wanted to embark on a non-carbonated beverage business in the Philippines through a strategic partnership with SMC.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P48.61 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2001

¥114.88 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 114.88 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 6, 2001

GOLD:$265.30/265.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 6, 2001

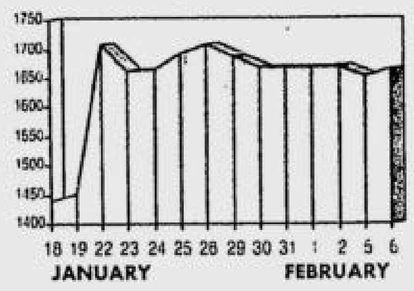
Feb. 6, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.065417	1.000000	49.1610
Japan	Yen	0.009289	0.008719	0.4286
United Kingdom	Pound	1.572342	1.475800	72.5518
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.136614	0.128226	6.3037
Switzerland	Franc	0.650120	0.610203	29.9982
Canada	Dollar	0.707072	0.663658	32.6261
Singapore	Dollar	0.612274	0.574680	28.2518
Australia	Dollar	0.586618	0.550600	27.0680
Bahrain	Dinar	2.826189	2.652661	130.4075
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.284134	0.266688	13.1106
Brunei	Dollar	0.611430	0.573888	28.2129
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000104	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.025104	0.023563	1.1584
UAE	Dirham	0.290107	0.272294	13.3862
Korea	Won	0.000845	0.000793	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.938600	46.1425
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.479899	23.5923
France	Franc	0.152450	0.143089	7.0344
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.425918	20.9386
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.068211	3.3533
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.023267	1.1438
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000485	0.0238
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.157861	7.7606
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004682	0.2302
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005641	0.2773
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.023267	1.1438
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.191776	58.5889

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES finished higher yesterday, as investors cheered news that food and beverage group San Miguel Corp. has regained control of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 12.15 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1664.23, following Monday's one percent loss.

San Miguel "A" and "B" shares were among the most active stocks, with the "A" shares gaining P1.50 to P52, and the "B" shares gaining P1 to P64.

"San Miguel is a key component of the (Philippine Stock Exchange) index, that's why when its share price rose, other blue chips followed," said KGI Securities vice president Fitzgerald Aclan.

Aclan said the latest corporate news from San Miguel was something positive as it has provided investors with a fresh incentive to position in the market.

"The Coke deal got the market some attention from overseas and local players who haven't been watching the market," said Emilio Neri, head of research at Abacus Securities Corp.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index rose 12.15, or 0.7 percent, to 1664.23. The All Shares Index rose 11.12, or 1.35 percent, to 837.37. Of stocks that traded on the exchange, advancing shares outnumbered decliners 66 to 24, with 24 unchanged. *AP, Bloomberg*

US realty services firm taps RP market

A GLOBAL real estate services company specializing in online transactions is introducing the Internet as a mainstream marketing tool in the Philippine property market.

US-based Electronic Realty Associates (ERA) has added the Philippines to its growing network of more than 2,600 offices in the United States and 19 other countries and territories. It is a subsidiary of Cendant Corp., a company listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the world's largest franchise for residential real estate brokerage.

ERA Philippines is jumpstarting its operations in the country by forging marketing alliances with major property developers in the Philippines which are bent on gaining an immediate advantage in real estate electronic commerce.

ERA Philippines executive officer Alyn Red said it was a highly opportune time for the company to take a strategic position in the Philippine market.

She said ERA was backing up its optimism in the industry by mobilizing substantial international resources for local operations. She said the company would be deploying its experience and global marketing clout here through its franchise system of sales networking.

The franchise system provides for independent real estate brokers to set up ERA franchise offices in their respective areas of coverage.

INTEREST RATES

DAILY STATISTICAL INDICATORS

PARTICULARS	Today	Previous Day	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Bangko Sentral R/P Rates (% p.a.) 1/					
06 February 2001					
Overnight R/P	13.7500	13.7500	14.2500	15.2500	11.0000
Term R/P	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.	N.Q.
Interbank Call Loan Rate (% p.a.)					
05 February 2001					
Weighted Ave.	11.7500	11.7188	12.0625	13.0625	8.7500
High	12.0000	12.1250	12.3750	13.4375	8.9375
Low	11.5625	11.5625	12.0625	13.0625	8.6250
Promissory Note Rates (% p.a.) 2/					
05 February 2001					
60 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	9.0166
90 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	9.0000
180 Days	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.	N.T.
Foreign Interest Rates					
(% p.a.)					
90-day LIBOR	5.4100	5.4000	5.5400	5.6200	6.0900
90-day SIBOR	5.4200	5.3800	5.5700	5.6300	6.1000
180-day LIBOR	5.2700	5.2300	5.3800	5.4200	6.3100
180-day SIBOR	5.2900	5.2200	5.4200	5.4500	6.3200

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, February 6, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	25,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	128	128	121	121	400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69	69	68	68.5	160,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	56	56	54	54	111,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	234	234	230	233	18,640
Philippine National Bank	34	34.5	34	34	54,700
Rizal Comm'l Bkg. Corp. A	26	27	26	27	1,600
Security Bank Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	32,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	32	32	30	30	3,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	213,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	190,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1400	1405	1390	1395	12,750
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1180	1200	1175	1200	23,470
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	47	47.5	47	47.5	4,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.77	0.81	0.77	0.79	18,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	725	725	720	720	1,770
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.06	0.0575	0.06	10,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	90,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	4.15	4.15	4	4	111,000
Piltel	0.78	0.84	0.78	0.84	1,820,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	150,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	910	915	890	890	120,330
Ivantage Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	100,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0725	0.0775	0.0725	0.0775	447,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	52	52.5	52	52.5	4,100
Manila Electric Co. B	58.5	59	58.5	59	643,100
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.88	1.82	1.88	6,136,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l SV	1.32	1.38	1.32	1.38	3,553,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.56	360,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	170,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.81	240,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	133,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	36	38	35.5	37.5	1,064,300
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.7	1.58	1.7	20,000
RFM Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.04	1.04	1,124,000
San Miguel Corp. A	50	52	50	52	202,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	63.5	64	856,200
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	55,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	140,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	10,000
Ayala Corp.	8.1	8.2	8	8.2	1,010,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.5	4,903,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.25	12	12.25	800
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.1	162,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	30,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	13,160,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	10,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.26	0.21	0.24	3,540,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	1,766,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	420,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.55	0.57	0.54	0.55	1,020,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	1.08	1.8	1.08	1.8	13,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.28	1.2	1.24	1,606,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.5	23	22.25	22.5	459,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	110,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,520,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.82	0.82	0.81	0.81	450,000
Ionics Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	19,000
Ipeople Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	50,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.65	2.65	480,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	4,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.93	0.97	0.93	0.94	3,130,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	990,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.66	0.69	0.66	0.69	10,520,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.7	0.74	0.7	0.74	1,820,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.41	4,300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.46	0.63	0.46	0.51	180,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.38	2,810,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	150,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	8,000
Macondray Plastics, Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	2,000
Music Corp.	3.2	3.55	3.2	3.3	803,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	50,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	900,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12	12.25	12	12.25	174,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.67	3,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.7	0.63	0.63	6,020,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.56	0.63	0.56	0.63	940,000
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	47	47	47	47	366,800
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.3	3.3	3	3.3	133,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	770	770	770	770	10
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.32	0.47	0.32	0.47	30,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	176,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.3	13,929,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.35	6,050,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.44	4,740,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.75	2.55	2.75	6,843,000
Golesco Land Inc. B	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	280,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	258,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	80,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	8,063,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	4,540,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	52,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	14,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	16,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	90,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	280,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	15,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	17,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	30,000
Pacifica	0.018	0.019	0.018	0.019	53,700,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	847,360	70,651,760.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	737,222,410	409,650,315.00
PRO	45,683,000	168,414,350.00
Mining	173,414,000	1,297,600.00
OIL	85,830,000	1,578,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,042,996,770	651,592,125.00

AVERAGES			
Banks & Fin Svc	611.41	DOWN	6.78
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,293.62	UP	18.04
PRO	620.28	UP	4.53
Mining	1,344.57	DOWN	10.07
OIL	2.04	UP	0.01
All Shares Index	837.37	UP	11.12
Composite	1,664.23	UP	12.15

NO. OF ADVANCES: 66; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 24;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 114; NO. OF TRADES: 4,157

UNITED COCONUT PLANTERS LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION

Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of December 31, 1997 and 1998

ADMITTED ASSETS	1998	1997
Bonds	2,604,737.38	
Investment in Treasury Bills	72,212,378.47	15,409,067.15
Stocks	624,579,948.53	380,648,864.35
Real Estate	635,181,309.20	641,989,675.57
Mortgage Loan	784,286,212.21	789,452,156.02
Policy Loans Receivable	34,843,019.31	26,625,335.58
Other Loans	26,622,775.83	10,207,926.55
Collateral Loans	25,582,641.16	8,092,356.57
Security Fund	60,883.00	60,883.00
Other Investments	2,097,000.00	6,651,750.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks	27,515,652.60	51,479,349.24
Amounts Due from Ceding Companies	4,599.45	
Amount Receivable from Accepting Companies	6,334,772.92	
Receivables from Life Insurance Pools	3,375,921.54	2,678,356.84
Net Life Insurance Premiums and Annuity Considerations Due and Uncollected	101,443,622.48	19,894,234.39
EDP Equipment	12,491,754.51	9,072,702.30
Due and Accrued Investment Income	82,526,427.92	43,193,062.73
Total Admitted Assets	2,441,763,656.51	2,005,455,720.29
LIABILITIES		
Aggregate Reserve for Policies and Contracts	749,993,853.83	696,918,901.90
Policy and Contract Claims	369,371,391.11	301,904,301.61
Policyholders' Dividend and Experience Refunds Due and Unpaid	21,359,858.54	15,539,680.40
Liability for Premium Deposit Fund	58,592,146.92	37,200,172.13
Amount Due to Accepting Companies	4,965,774.99	
Amount Held for Agents Account		11,991,723.44
Due to Reinsurers		8,449,640.49
Accrued Expenses	4,893,251.61	16,602,312.31
Accounts Payable		2,508,525.69
Taxes Payables	56,939,781.43	43,256,407.64
Unearned Bond Discount	2,036,625.75	
Unearned Interest		349,436,260.29
Other Liabilities	291,577,045.78	43,862,472.42
Total Liabilities	1,559,729,729.96	1,527,670,398.32
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Capital Stock Paid-Up	36,000,000.00	36,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00
Special Surplus Fund: Revaluation Reserve - Real Estate	322,000,000.00	322,000,000.00
Retained Earnings	514,033,926.55	109,785,321.97
Total Stockholders' Equity	882,033,926.55	477,785,321.97
Total Liabilities and Stockholders' Equity	2,441,763,656.51	2,005,455,720.29

(This synopsis, prepared from the 1997 and 1998 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code.)

DISCLOSURES

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Receipts of **ABS-CBN Holdings Corp.** were reduced by 218,900, bringing down the total PDRs of the company to 267.3 million.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank's newly elected director is Vicente L. Panlilio and not Virgilio Panlilio as earlier disclosed by the bank.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Philcomsat Holdings Corp.** elected Oliverio Laperal as an additional member to the company's executive committee.

* * *

REYNOLDS Philippines Corp. said it has no information on what caused the unusual movement in the price of its shares, which began trading again only last Monday after being suspended for six months due to the company's failure to submit its 1999 annual report. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

SEC revives moves to form futures mart

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it would accept this year new applications to create a futures exchange. The commission is already considering two proposals filed in 1999.

In a news briefing Monday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said regulators would come up with new rules on the formation of a futures exchange this year.

Bautista said the commission would allow the setting up of a financial futures exchange first before considering plans for a commodities futures exchange.

"We want to avoid what happened in the past, wherein a lot of people were defrauded," she told reporters.

Bautista disclosed she had received reports that a number of fly-by-night groups were engaging in futures trading. Rules on a futures exchange should help address this problem, she stressed.

"There will be a processing of applications. We also have to determine how many do we need," Bautista said.

She said the SEC would ask the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and multilateral institutions to help it draft new rules on a futures exchange.

The government shut down the Manila International Futures Exchange, which dealt with commodities initially and then with currency futures, amid investor complaints of fraud.

In 1999, the SEC drew up guidelines on how to set up a futures exchange and sought applications from interested parties.

HK Securities Inc.'s Rodolfo Cruz and banker Jaime Panganiban filed applications to set up the Philippine Mercantile Exchange.

After the SEC extended its deadline for the submission of applications, the Philippine Stock Exchange also sent a proposal.

The processing of applications and rules on the establishment of a futures exchange, however, had since been suspended.

S&P raises concerns over Napocor prospects

STANDARD & Poor's yesterday raised concerns regarding the long-term prospects for National Power Corp. reflecting continued delays in the passage of legislation aimed at privatizing the Philippine electricity industry.

The proposed Omnibus Power Bill was expected to shift the heavy financial burden associated with existing and new power plant construction away from Napocor onto the private sector and impose guidelines for the recovery of stranded assets.

Significant delays in the passage of the deregulation legislation are now anticipated under the Macapagal administration.

Until the new management team, in concert with the Macapagal administration, announce an updated plan for dealing with the problems in the electricity sector, the outlook for Napocor's credit rating will remain negative, Standard & Poor's said.

A new president, Jesus N. Alcordo, was appointed head of Napocor on Feb. 5, 2001.

While the majority of Napocor's debt obligations and contracts with independent power producers are guaranteed by the Philippine government, the delay in the passage of the power legislation could lead to further financial operating and financial weakness at the utility.

The local currency rating on Napocor is triple-"B" and the foreign currency rating is double-"B"-plus.

The outlook on both ratings is negative.

Of immediate concern is Napocor's continued access to capital needed to support ongoing operations and capital expenditures.

Many multilateral lenders have reportedly restricted lending to Napocor until the passage of the deregulation legislation is complete.

This could create problems for Napocor as it continues with planned capital expenditure or seeks to refinance existing debt obligations.

Also, with the Macapagal administration's attention focused on a growing fiscal deficit, there is some concern of diminished government support for Napocor's future debt needs.

These factors, combined with an estimated Napocor loss of P11.9 billion in fiscal 2000, could force Napocor to call on the government's guarantee to maintain timely future debt service payments.

Failure by the government to react on time to a Napocor cash flow squeeze could trigger a default.

Over the longer term, Standard & Poor's is concerned about the ability of Napocor to finance a capital investment program amounting to P470.6 billion between 2000 and 2010.

Of this amount, about 79 percent is expected to support the construction of new generation facilities to meet expected demand growth, with the remainder being allocated to transmission and distribution systems. *Reuters*

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Pantaleon's fantasy

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

HERE we go again.

While members of the new economic team of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are cracking their heads on how to save money, scrounge for funds, and privatize more firms, the new transportation and communications secretary, Pantaleon Alvarez, is now proposing to spend P5.7 billion to revive the graft-ridden Telepono sa Barangay project.

Renamed Alternative Communications Program, the Alvarez proposal is suspiciously similar to that being cooked by Erap's favorite telecom supplier, Jaime Dichaves, during happier days at the DOTC/NTC.

While the private telecom companies like Smart, Piltel, and Digitel—the Gokongwei-company which incidentally took over the backbone of the government's rural telephony program—are complaining of surplus capacity, Alvarez plans to build a public calling office in every barangay throughout the archipelago.

"I think the program was very well thought(-out)," Alvarez told the INQUIRER while admitting, in the same news story Monday, that the DOTC technical staff has yet to draft an executive order about his baby.

Alvarez then disclosed that the entire program would be at no cost to the government since the costs would be "undertaken by the private sector."

Huh! The DOTC will build a P5.7-billion network to compete with the private sector and he expects the private sector to shoulder the project cost?

One private telecom official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he only came to know of the Alvarez plan to palm off to the private sector the multi-billion project through the INQUIRER.

Ironically, a day before the Alvarez story came out on Monday, a pro-government daily headlined a story about the state of affairs at the Telecommunications Office (Telof) this way: "Samar folk hit erratic gov't telephone service."

"The recurring breakdown of the government phone service, which often lasts for several weeks, has been blamed on the difficulty of getting replacement parts and other accessories, brownouts, and bad weather," Samareño editor Lucino Rebamontan reported.

"Local Telof officials said requests for much needed spare parts have piled up at the agency's regional office in Tacloban City for lack of funding. Regional officials, in turn, pass the buck to Telof-Manila."

Telof was the first to introduce telephone service in Eastern Samar but it soon lost its pioneering advantage to private telephone companies which have proved to be more efficient and reliable, Rebamontan added.

"Besides, the three private trunks-line charge cheaper rates than the government calling stations."

The cost of public service

TAKING his father's directive to heart that no family member or immediate relative shall engage in businesses that could put dad into a conflict-of-interest situation, Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo's lawyer-son, Roman, has tendered his resignation from the Sycip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan law firm.

According to the grapevine, the 31-year-old corporate finance lawyer is due for promotion to senior partnership at Sycip Salazar when he made the painful, irrevocable decision.

Prior to his father's appointment, Roman Romulo had been Sycip Salazar's point man at the finance department and the Bangko Sentral.

The resignation takes effect at the end of the month.

Sky's limit

SKY CABLE has dropped the CNBC channel starting yesterday, apparently due to disagreement over telecast rates.

That means the Tonight show with Jay Leno, which used to be shown every night until CNBC skimped and showed it only on weekends, will no longer be seen altogether.

Sky Cable replaced CNBC with a new, but weaker competitor, the Singapore-based Channel News Asia, whose major attraction, as far as yours truly is concerned, is a weekly food show with an engaging British host.

And with CNBC gone, Bloomberg becomes the lone dedicated business channel in the Sky and Sun cable networks.

Heard through the grapevine

THE POLITICAL enemies of comebacking Jejomar Binay, in alliance with the mestiziosis of Makati, are preparing an Erap-style listing of houses/condo units, beach/farm properties, businesses, and fast food outlets allegedly accumulated by the Binays during his and his wife's reign.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

COUNTRY SHARES

As of February 7, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
Camp John Hay		350,000
Eagle Ridge A	350,000	
Forest Hills A	290,000	
Luisita		650,000
Manila Polo	2,670,000	
Manila Southwoods A	850,000	
Manila Southwoods B	900,000	
Quezon City Sports	230,000	
Tagaytay Country Club	480,000	500,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf	1.1 M	
Tagaytay Midlands	900,000	
Valley Golf	280,000	
WackWack	8,000,000	

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PNB offers assets to pay back BSP loan

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

PHILIPPINE National Bank still incurred losses of about P1 billion last year, although this was much lower than the previous year's P9.87 billion, unaudited financial reports showed.

The loss came despite a P10-billion capital infusion from beer and cigarette tycoon Lucio Tan in September last year.

PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. said final financial results of the country's fifth largest lender would be out by the end of the week.

Miranda said the bank had asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to accept a dacion en pago or payment-in-kind arrangement for P10 billion of its P15-billion emergency loan obtained last Oct. 6. The loan is due in April.

PNB borrowed a total of P25 billion from the government, with P10 billion coming from state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

PNB had requested the BSP that the remaining P5 billion be paid over eight years in installment at prevailing market rates at the time of payment. Miranda said these were the terms they had asked from the BSP in relation to the rehabilitation of the bank.

He said the P10-billion payment-in-kind arrangement would be comprised mainly of PNB's Financial Center complex valued at P8 billion plus other pieces of real estate.

Miranda added that even if the government owned only 16 percent of the bank, it remained entitled to two board seats and still had the power to appoint the bank's top officials, including the chair and the president.

A stock rights offering last September gave Tan more than 70 percent of the ailing bank from 46 percent while the government's stake was reduced from 30.4 percent.

Miranda said the Macapagal administration has yet to appoint new people into PNB. The President's sister, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, is one of the bank directors appointed by the previous administration.

The PNB official said it was the prerogative of the government to review the rehabilitation program that had been approved in principle by the central bank.

"We can't do anything if they want to review it. That is their option," Miranda said.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo earlier said the new administration would review first the rehabilitation plan for PNB as well as scrutinize the loan and the terms governing the P25-billion emergency loan extended to the bank.

PNB would settle its P10-billion obligation to PDIC by transferring government liabilities to the bank insurer worth about P9 billion.

These liabilities would include a P5-billion loan to the Bureau of Customs so it could pay its obligations to imports inspector SGS and a P4.5-billion loan to a sugar trading company extended during the time of Marcos.

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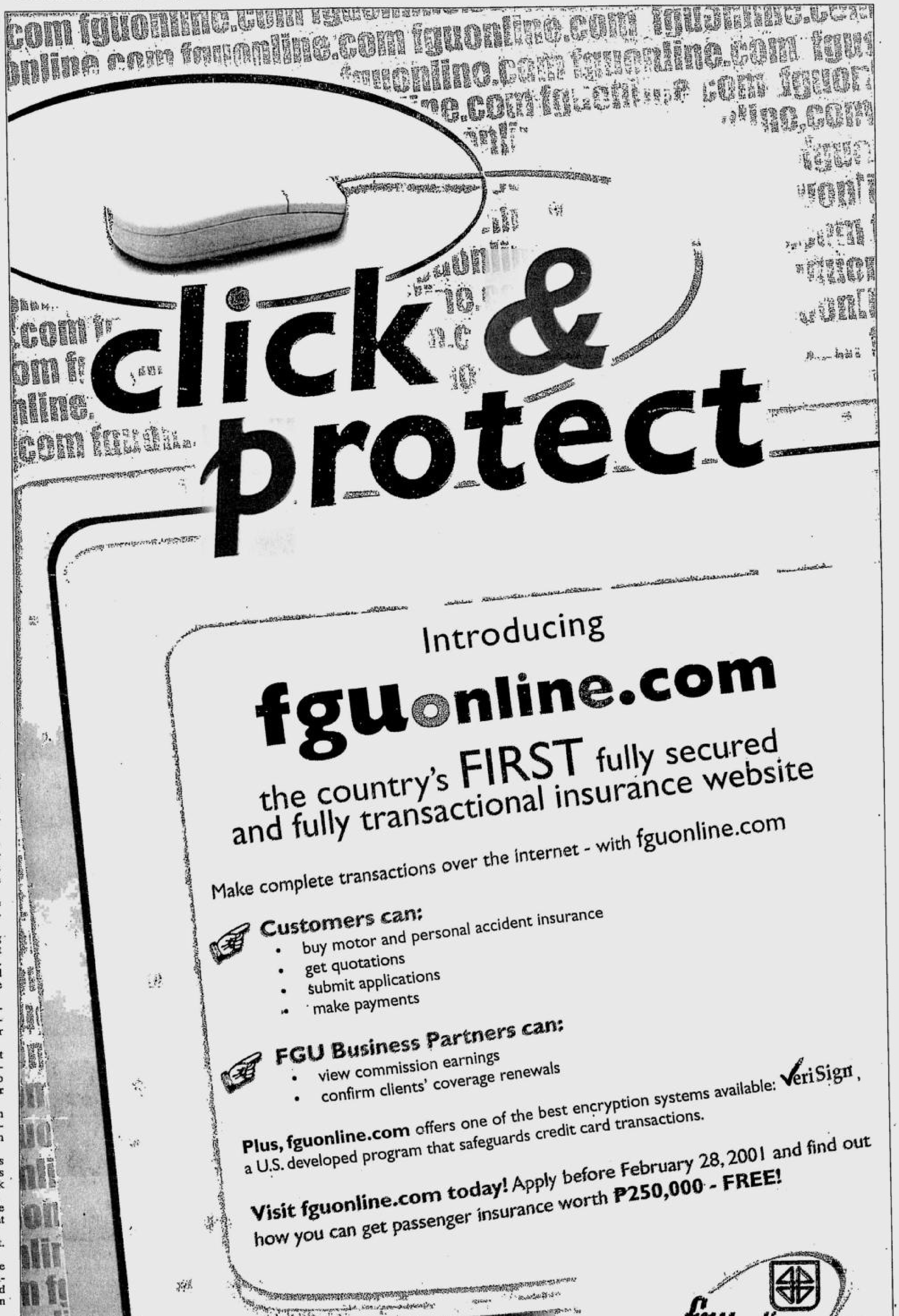

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Dr. Juvenal Cañizares Trinidad

who joined his Creator on January 11, 2001
at the age of 71

wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who, by way of their presence, prayers, thoughts, flowers, notes of sympathy, and extension of support, showed loved and concern, offered solace and comfort and in many countless ways, condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

BENJAMIN D. DIZON

of Magalang, Pampanga & Quezon City
who joined his Creator on January 19, 2001

wish to convey our sincerest and heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers, spiritual bouquets, flowers and notes of sympathy, extended support, visited and kept vigil, attended the services and funeral rites and those who in countless ways condoled, helped and comforted us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

God bless you all.

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The family of

JUANITA Q. BALTAZAR

(7 May 1908 - 31 Jan. 2001)

Deeply and sincerely thank our relatives, friends and all who were with us physically or in spirit and helped us in our bereavement.

We are sure you made our dear Mama very happy and she will be praying for us all.

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Domingo Astorga Ponferrada

August 4, 1911 - February 5, 2001

First Mayor of the Municipality of Tunga, Leyte;
Director, Leyte Institute; Sangguniang Panlalawigan Representative; Educator; Community Leader

Beloved spouse to **Elena Peñaranda** (†); survived by sister **Merced P. Velano**; children and children-in-law **Agnes** and **Antonio Basilio**, **Nonna Ponferrada**, **Leonor** and **John van Stone**, **Lino** and **Gilda Ponferrada**, **Belen** and **Adrian Thirkell**; grandchildren **Iniko**, **Liam**, **Fenella**, **Guido**, **Carlo**, **Martin** and **Aaron Marcelo**; nieces and nephews, grandnephews and grandnieces.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Tunga, Leyte. Interment at the town cemetery on Saturday, February 10 after the 10:00 AM Mass at the Tunga Parish Church.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

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Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted not later than 5 PM of **February 15, 2001**. Pre-qualified parties shall be immediately notified thereof and are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference scheduled on February 26, 2001. All bid offers must be submitted not later than 5 PM of **February 28, 2001**, which shall be opened immediately thereafter.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to two and one half (2.5) percent the total bid offer in cash or manager's/cashier's check.

The IBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality, to assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate any supplier/contractor for any expense that it may have incurred in the preparation of bid, and to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the IBP.

ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(PDI--Feb. 7, 2001)

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INVITATION TO BID

Impact Evaluation of the Philippine Human Rights Plan

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Commission on Human Rights announces its search of a qualified Consultancy Group to undertake an impact evaluation of the Philippine Human Rights Plant (PHRP).

The assessment shall determine the extent of implementaiton and results of the PHRP. Specifically, it must:

- Identify legislative, administrative and programme measures formulated, adopted and implemented in response to human rights issues under the 16 identified sectors;
- Determine changes, if any, on human rights situations of the sectors concerned;
- Find out the nature and degree of coordination between and among participating government, non-government and people's organizations in implementing priority programmes in response to human rights issues;
- Identify factors which facilitate or hinder effective PHRP implementation; and
- Recommend areas for further improvement of the PHRP.

A **Pre-Qualification / Pre-Bid Meeting** shall be held on **February 12, 2001**, Monday 9:30 a.m. at the CHR Conference Room, SAAC Bldg., UP Diliman Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. Interested bidders are required to submit the following Pre-Qualification / Pre-Bid Documents on the said date:

- Profile of the Consulting Group, to include specific areas of involvement in research and program evaluation (give specific work), work background, fields of specialization
- SEC registration and other appropriate licenses
- Income tax return for the last two years.

For details, contact the PHRP Secretariat (c/o Ms. Naylene Bautista) at nos. 927-6225 and 925-3878.

(Sgd.) **COMM. JORGE R. COQUIA**
Head, CHR Committee on Bids & Awards

(PDI – Feb. 5, 6 & 7, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY
MUNICIPALITY OF MABINI
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: February 7, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. RI RR 00 365 04 TAG-DP for the **Rehabilitation of TVPI-Highway-Nangka Road** located at Brgy. Tagnanan, Mabini, Compostela Valley Province. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Mabini and implementing partner of the DAR for the ARCDP-WB invite sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Description of the Project: Rehabilitation of 3.440 kms. Road.

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
102	Roadway and Drainage Excavation	2,920.00 sq.m
104	Embankment	2,935.00 cu.m.
105	Sub-Grade Preparation	13,760.00 sq.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	2,064.00 cu.m.
500	R.C. Pipe Culverts	32.00 ln.m.
504	Grouted Riprap	418.00 cu.m.
Spl	Soil Stabilizer Application	13,760.00 sq.m.

Bid Security : **P88,000.00**
Bid closing Date : **March 9, 2001, 10:00 a.m.**
Sub-project Duration : **120 Calendar Days**

Minimum Equipment's Required

Dump trucks, Road Grader, Road Roller (min. 9 ton), Water truck, Concrete mixer

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by interested bidders at above office starting **February 12, 2001**, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand five hundred pesos only (2,500.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **February 23, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Mabini, Compostela Valley Province on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on **March 9, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **HON. REYNALDO L. DAYANGHIRANG**
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

(PDI Feb. 7, 2001)

AUCTION

OVER 50 LOTS INCLUDING: -

OKAMURA WORKSTATIONS AND PARTITIONS, VERTICAL / HORIZONTAL BLINDS AND IMPORTED FLOOR CARPETS

AT: 23rd Floor Antel Corporate Center,
139 Valero St. Salcedo Village, Makati City
ON: Thursday, 8th February 2001 at 6:30pm
ON VIEW: Thursday, 8th February 2001, 9:00am - 6:30pm
BUILDING RULES: No sandals, No Shorts, No Sleeveless Shirts, No Smoking
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php10,000 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

HENRY BUTCHER & CO. (PHILS.), INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jolliland Building, 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2) - 852 2910 * 852 2911 Fax: (63-2)-831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

AUCTION

ELECTRIC MOTORS; ROLLER CONVEYORS, CONTROL PANELS, SCRAP MATERIALS, OVER 5000 WOODEN PALLETS

AT: East Gate, #10 Main Light Industry & Science Park (LISP), Cabuyao, Laguna
ON: Thursday, 8th February 2001 at 2:00pm
ON VIEW: Thursday, 8th February 2001, 9:00am - 2:00pm
ON-SITE RULES: No sandals, No Shorts, No Sleeveless Shirts, No Smoking
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: Php10,000 (Upon Registration)

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

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KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

Sama-sama sa DECS

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports is inviting all DECS accredited Janitorial Agencies for the bidding of Janitorial Services for the DECS Central Office Year 2001.

All interested agencies must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting February 7 to 14, 2001 at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Rm 112 A, Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on February 27, 2001, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on March 7, 2001 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **RAMON C. BACANI**
Undersecretary
Vice-Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI--Feb. 7, 8 & 9, 2001)

ARE YOU READY TO PARTY?

Civil Eyes, Manila's party band, is set to rock Batangas when it performs live during the grand opening of Jazz Rhythms Lipa at the Fiesta World Mall on Friday, Feb. 9. With wake-up, non-stop party gigs, Jazz Rhythms promises to transform Lipa City as the newest entertainment capital of Batangas.

ITALIANNI'S BAKERY & CAFÉ OPENING THIS MONTH

Italianni's Bakery & Café is currently conducting training sessions in time for the opening of its first outlet at the 2nd level of Glorietta IV in February. Photo shows manager Pet Genovea with the new restaurant's staff during one of the sessions that dwells on customer service, food quality, and front and back-of-the-house operations. Italianni's Bakery & Café is designed to cater to diners who want quick, individual meals and personalized service. The Bakery & Café seats 80 people and offers some of Italianni's famous pastas, pizza, sandwiches, entrees, desserts and drinks for dine-in and take-out. Though smaller in capacity, it still carries the relaxing, casual dining ambiance that Italianni's Restaurant is known for. Italianni's Bakery & Café is part of Bistro Holdings' expansion plans for 2001.

Banks ask SEC to replace steel company liquidator

By Elena R. Torrijos

CREDITOR-BANKS of National Steel Corp. are asking the Securities and Exchange Commission to immediately replace former SEC associate commissioner Danilo Concepcion as liquidator of the ailing steel company.

In an urgent omnibus motion, a group of NSC creditor banks, led by Global Business Bank and Philippine National Bank, also asked the SEC to order Concepcion to stop entering into any lease agreement and negotiating with any prospective lessee without consulting them.

They said that the liquidator and the creditor-banks should work hand-in-hand.

However, they claimed that based on information they received, the liquidator has allegedly taken or initiated actions without consulting them. This, they said, could be prejudicial to the interest of the creditors and other stakeholders of NSC.

In an order dated Dec. 18, the SEC panel hearing the NSC case granted Concepcion's request to negotiate for the lease of NSC's Iligan steel plant subject to the liquidator's consultations with creditor-banks on the choice of lessee and the terms and conditions of the lease agreement.

The SEC last November appointed Concepcion as replacement of Monico Jacob as NSC liquidator. Jacob resigned after the NSC labor union raised the issue of a possible conflict of interest. Before his appointment even as NSC interim receiver, Jacob had disclosed that he was a director of Philippine Steel Corp., a rival steel firm.

The creditor banks told the SEC that Concepcion should be required to explain his acts in soliciting lease proposals for the Iligan plant without prior consultation with the creditor-banks and in clear violation of the December order of the SEC.

The banks requested the SEC to remove Concepcion as NSC liquidator and replace him with someone who is qualified and acceptable to concerned parties.

The banks also asked the SEC to hold in abeyance any invitation or talks for the lease of the plant pending ongoing negotiations with Swiss firm Glencore International A.G. or to restrain lease negotiations until consultations with creditor-banks were made.

The groups that have submitted proposed lease agreements include Allengoal Steel Trading and Fabrication and Cathay Pacific Steel Co.

BSP set to cut rates anew

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday it might cut its key rates by another 50 basis points in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that a low interest rate regime was among her priorities.

"We will be back to pre-"Juetengate" levels, but the question is if we will do it this week or next and by how much," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, a member of the Monetary Board, said there was still room for the central bank's overnight borrowing and lending rates to go down.

The BSP last week cut its benchmark interest rates by half a percentage point starting Monday, and hinted that more interest rate cuts would be considered carefully.

The fresh cuts brought the overnight borrowing rate down to 11.5 percent and the lending rate to 13.75 percent.

The move followed the US Federal Reserve's half-a-percentage-point cut in key interest rates on Wednesday last week. Fed policymakers cut their benchmark rate by half a percentage point, citing the need for a quick response to the US economy's recent slide.

This marked the fourth policy rate cut since the beginning of this year and brought the reduction in the central bank's policy rates to a cumulative total of 350 basis points since Dec. 4 last year.

The BSP raised the key interest rates by four percentage points in October after the peso plunged because of the political crisis in which former President Joseph Estrada was accused of amassing illegal wealth while in office.

Buenaventura said the monetary authorities took into account a number of factors bearing on the future trend of inflation.

He also hinted further reductions might be in store, depending on where inflation was headed and further moves by the US Federal Reserve Board.

"The extent of policy rate cuts will be calibrated vis-a-vis developments in the financial and fiscal sectors," he said.

"Further interest rate reductions would also be considered carefully with a view to observing an appropriate differential with foreign interest rates."

The central bank would also continue to monitor and assess the risks stemming from possible inflationary pressures coming from aggregate demand and supply conditions, he said.

The Macapagal administration is hoping lower rates will help boost economic growth this year by making it easier for companies to borrow and invest.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas earlier said the government expected gross domestic product to expand between 3.8 and 4.3 percent in 2001 from 3.9 percent last year, one of the slowest rates in Asia.

The Philippines' benchmark yield dropped for a 12th straight week after the central bank cut interest rates Thursday for the seventh time since December.

At this week's Bureau of Treasury auction, the average yield on the 91-day bill, which banks use to set lending rates, fell to 10.863 percent from 11.165 percent last week.

In other government securities, the 182-day bill yield fell to 12.174 percent from 12.181 percent, and the 364-day bill yield fell to 12.694 percent from 12.699 percent.

Petron posts ₱1.1B in losses

PETRON Corp. said it ended the year 2000 with a P1.1-billion net loss, a reversal of the previous year's performance when it posted a profit of P1.9 million.

Petron said its losses stemmed from higher production costs arising from the peso fall and the unstable world crude prices.

As the peso hit historic lows and world crude prices continued to rise, Petron had expected its earnings to drop by 60 to 70 percent.

"The company's performance started to deteriorate in 1999 when our net income dropped by 35 percent compared to the previous year as domestic prices of refined products failed to catch up with the world crude prices. The company sustained significant cost under-recoveries for the entire 2000," Petron Corp. chair Jose A. Syjuco said in a statement yesterday.

Petron's market share as of December was at 35 percent. The company's domestic sales volume declined by more than 10 percent due to lower demand from the industrial sector and the stiff competition from industry rivals Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines and the new oil industry players.

The earnings of its subsidiaries, Syjuco said, mitigated Petron's financial losses in 2000. The company has been diversifying into the insurance and real estate businesses that aimed to serve the fuels and petrochemical sectors.

Petron has also invested in certain local and offshore insurance companies as well as in a land-banking company.

The company was able to collect some outstanding claims from government agencies including the National Power Corp. toward the end of the year.

"We have always perceived that our financial difficulties were temporary. We trust that the economic situation will allow us to turn in a more favorable performance this year," Syjuco said.

Petron executives said that the improved economic climate under the new administration should also bring about stronger product demand.

"The company still expects crude prices to remain relatively high, given that Opec (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) has manifested its intention to keep crude prices at its desired band of $24 to $28 per barrel," Petron's corporate communications manager Antonio Pelayo added.

GOINGS-ON

EEI-Philrock merger OKd

STOCKHOLDERS of EEI Corp. ratified on Feb. 1 the company's merger with Philrock Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary.

Under the merger plan approved during the company's special stockholders' meeting, the assets, rights, properties and liabilities of Philrock as of Oct. 31, 2000 will be conveyed and transferred to EEI upon the effective merger date. EEI is the surviving corporation.

"The merger of Philrock into EEI will result in economies of scale and greater efficiencies in operation and the consolidation of its assets will allow for procurement of financing and credit facilities under more favorable terms," EEI chair and chief executive Rizalino S. Navarro said.

Initial payoff for Urbiztondo

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. is conducting the initial claims settlement operations for the closed Rural Bank of Urbiztondo (Pangasinan) Inc. from Feb. 1 to 15 for depositors of the head office in Urbiztondo, Pangasinan, and from Feb. 1 to 8 for depositors of the bank's Dagupan City branch, Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Depositors of the said bank are advised to file their claims at above-mentioned payoff sites or at the PDIC office at 2228 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Depositors are required to submit their evidence of deposits such as passbook, original certificate of time deposit and latest identification cards (IDs) with the depositors' specimen signature.

Last day of filing of claims (prescriptive date) is on May 14, 2002. After this date, PDIC as insurer will no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

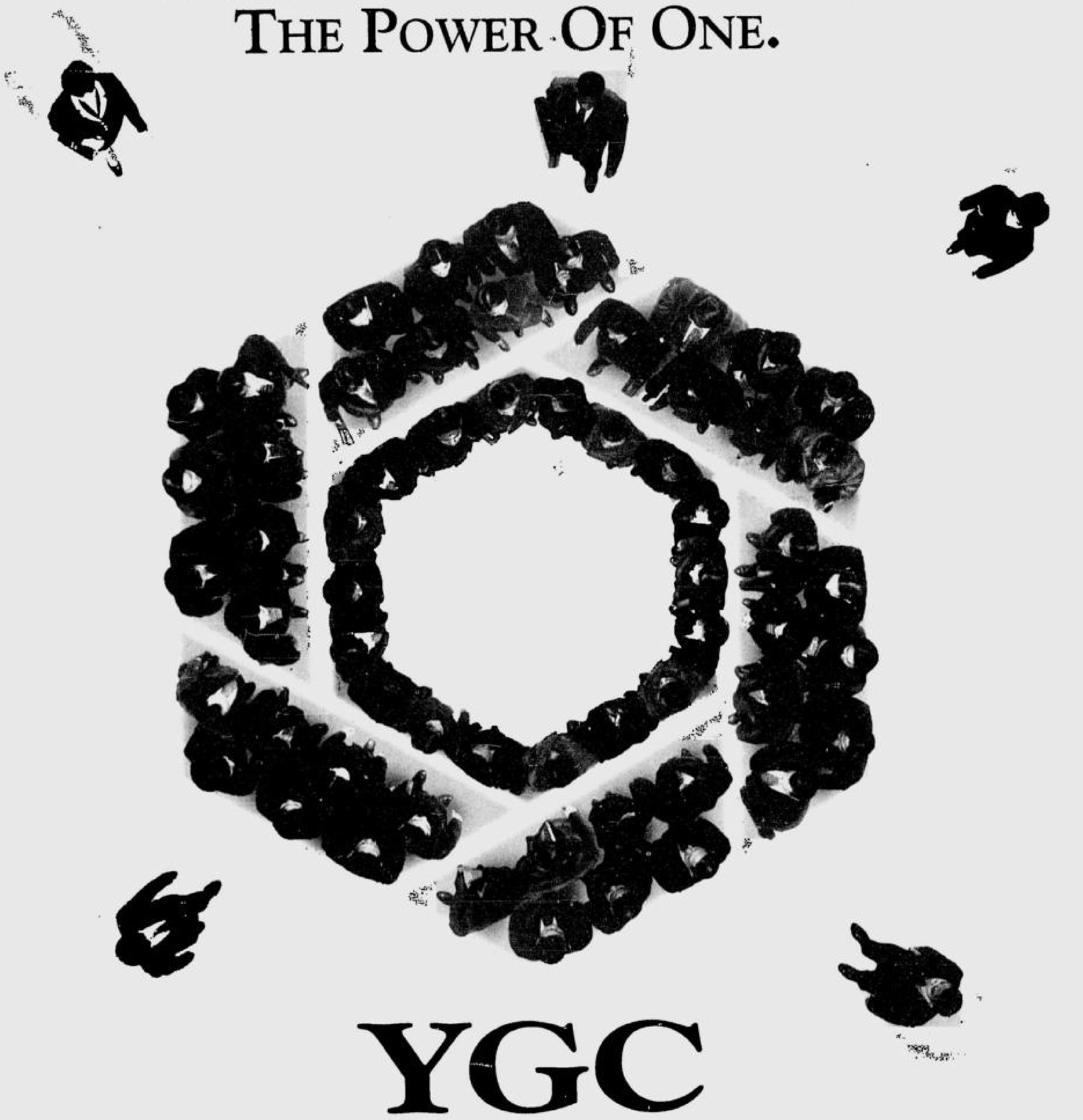
RCBC signs up with Bridge

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. has signed up for a treasury dealing platform with Bridge Information Systems (Philippines) Inc. for their new headquarters, RCBC Plaza, in Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Bridge's treasury dealing platform, called Bridge Trading Room Systems, is a proven system designed to meet the specialized requirements of enterprises whose businesses center on the trading room.

Using Active1 as front-end application provides the most powerful but straightforward market data workstation available. It leverages ActiveX and VBA technologies to provide a configurable workstation for displaying Bridge, Reuters and other platform-sourced data.

THE STRENGTHS OF MANY,
THE POWER OF ONE.



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And this is the strength of YGC. The Yuchengco Group of Companies.

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YGC

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· Affiliates: Hi Eisai Pharmaceutical, Inc. · The Hi Daiei Trading Co., Inc. · Manila Memorial Park Cemetery, Inc. · Nippon Life Insurance Co. of the Philippines, Inc. · Tokio Marine Malayan Insurance Co. Inc

Analysts doubtful as US firms predict a brighter second half

NEW YORK—With the US economy still looking shaky, companies warning of lower-than-expected earnings in the first half of 2001 have begun chanting a familiar refrain: The second half will be better.

That has been the message in recent weeks from companies like instant film and camera maker Polaroid Corp., youth-orientated apparel retailer Abercrombie & Fitch Co., and No. 1 PC maker Compaq Computer Corp.

"It's like a broken record, coming over and over again," said imaging analyst Gibboney Huske of Credit Suisse First Boston.

Looking to the second half is clearly a classic mantra, used many times in the past by Wall Street to keep nervous investors in the market. But is it true or wishful thinking?

Analysts are skeptical.

"I think that's human nature, to think that things will be better eventually," said SG Cowen Securities managing director Richard Chu. "But there is certainly no certainty that things will, in fact, get better in the second half of 2001, and I think it is wise to remain skeptical."

Huske agrees that most of the optimism is pinned on rather general hopes for the economy, including likely interest rate and tax cuts.

"I think there is a broad consensus among many, many companies that things are getting better in the second half, mostly based on macro-economic factors. And the comparisons will be easier in the second half of 2001 simply because the second half of 2000 was terrible," she said.

But if last year's experience in the technology sector is any guide, looking to the second half may be an empty promise. As technology investors recall, second-half promises were all the rage a year ago and, like now, one of the draws was the comparison with a bad second half of 1999 due to Y2K fears. But then, the stock market tumbled, and all bets were off.

Will the story repeat itself this year?

Analyst expectations provide companies with some reason for optimism. According to FirstCall/Thomson Financial, analysts expect close to a 7-percent growth in the third quarter and more than 17 percent in the fourth quarter. That is much better than the slightly negative growth expected in the first quarter and zero growth seen for the second quarter.

Even so, some company statements do appear too rosy.

Take Polaroid. On Jan. 25, the company reported a fourth-quarter loss, a 22-percent drop in revenues and warned profits in the first half of 2001 would fall short of year-ago levels. The dire news, however, did not deter Gary DiCamillo, chair and chief executive officer of Polaroid, from predicting results would improve in the second half of the year, driven by the introduction of new products.

Huske remains to be convinced. "Polaroid have had a long history of being overly optimistic," she said.

Another exuberant company is Abercrombie & Fitch. On Jan. 4, the retailer reported disappointing December sales and warned fourth-quarter earnings would miss expectations. Nevertheless, chair and chief executive Mike Jeffries' outlook for the second half was bright, saying "at this point we are comfortable that we can maintain last year's EPS level for the first half of 2001 and generate double digit profit growth in the third and fourth quarters." *Reuters*

Global semiconductor market exceeds $200B

SAN JOSE, California—Driven by the expansion of the Internet and demand for communications equipment, worldwide sales of semiconductors topped $200 billion last year, an industry group said Monday.

The record-setting sales, however, would not carry over into 2001 as the US economy continued to slow and manufacturers reported an excess of inventory, the Semiconductor Industry Association said.

December sales were $17.9 billion, a 21.6-percent increase over 1999 but a 2.1-percent drop from November. The group said its 2001 forecast of 22 percent year-over-year growth probably would not be met.

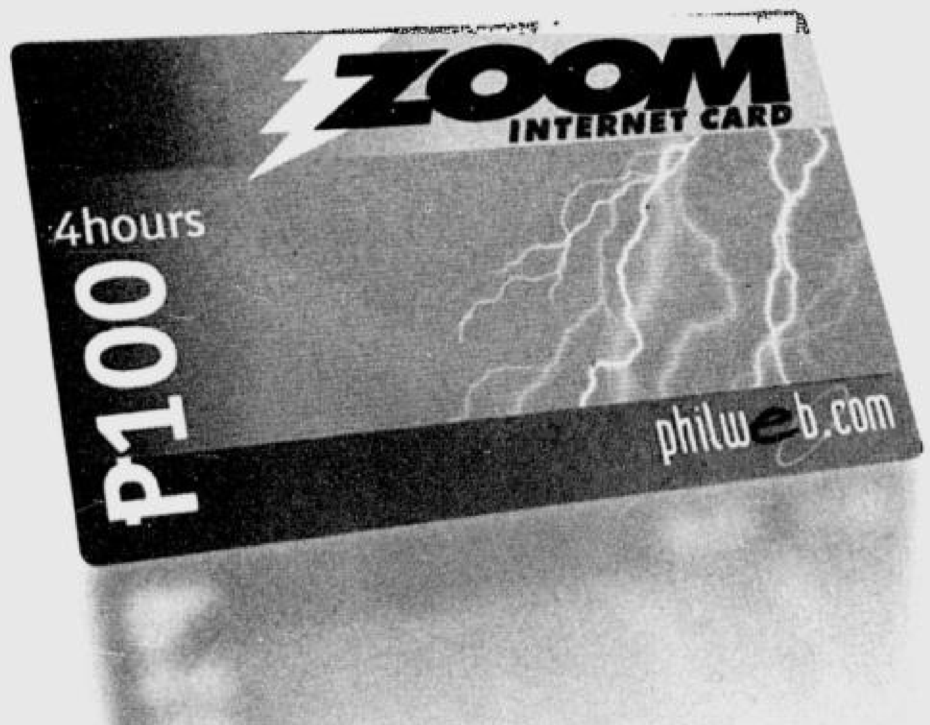
In 2000, the chip industry saw growth in all markets and in all parts of the world, the group reported. In all, sales increased 37 percent over 1999.

"This was a very exciting year for our industry, and reaching an all-time record high in sales of $204 billion is a great way to close the books for year 2000," said George Scalise, SIA president.

Flash memory, logic, analog, optoelectronics and programmable logic devices were expected to lead growth in the market as they were in demand for everything from Internet infrastructure components to digital cameras.

Sales of flash memory, used in cellular phones, MP3 players and digital cameras, totaled $10.6 billion, a 133.2-percent increase in 2000. Laser devices and image sensors that made up the optoelectronic market increased 69.7 percent for a total of $9.8 billion. *AP*

A NEW LEADER HAS EMERGED



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FOREIGN BRIEFS

No need for Opec cuts

OSLO—There was no need for further cuts in oil production, Saudi Arabia oil minister Ali al-Nuaimi told reporters Monday after meeting his Mexican and Norwegian counterparts, Ernesto Martens and Olav Akselsen.

The market was currently selling at a "reasonable price," he said, recalling that Opec had set a target price of about $25 a barrel.

Minister doubts BOJ move

TOKYO—A Japanese minister yesterday cast doubt on the benefits of a cut in interest rates by the Bank of Japan despite calls from politicians for the central bank to make life easier for debt-ridden firms.

"I don't think companies want to borrow money from banks even if the BOJ decides to launch quantitative monetary easing," Taro Aso, the state minister for economic and fiscal policy, said.

Demand for credit has slumped as companies retrench after a decade-long slump. Firms, however, would cope if they sought fresh lending but the banks turned off the taps, Aso told reporters.

Bush defends free trade

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Monday stressed his commitment to defending free trade at the swearing-in of his commerce secretary, longtime friend Don Evans.

"Open trade is a powerful force for good in the world," Bush said. "In all of our dealings abroad, we must stand for free markets and for the principles of democracy. We must stand for free and open trade without favoritism and without barriers."

South Korean debt shrinks

SEOUL—South Korea's foreign debt shrank to $136.3 billion at the end of December due to repayments by financial institutions, officials said yesterday.

Foreign debt in December was down $300 million from the previous month, the Ministry of Finance and Economy said.

"External liabilities fell due to financial institutions' efforts to cut their debt, although corporations increased long-term borrowings overseas in December," it said in a statement. *AFP*

Australia issues warning

CANBERRA, Australia—Australian Treasurer Peter Costello said yesterday economic growth would slow from last year's optimistic forecasts, but should remain strong.

In November, the government boosted its forecast for gross domestic product growth for the year ending Jun. 30, 2001 to 4 percent from 3.75 percent.

Speaking on Network Nine television, Costello, Australia's finance minister, retreated slightly from that estimate, saying it would be between 4 and 3.75 percent. *AP*

PepsiCo meets estimates

PURCHASE, New York—PepsiCo reported Monday fourth-quarter earnings per share of $567 million, a 14.8-percent jump from the same period a year ago.

Per-share earnings of 38 cents were in line with most forecasts.

The company said it saw strong increases in quarterly sales for most of its major soft drink, fruit juices, and snack food brand lines. PepsiCo also projected that in 2001 it will report year-over-year earnings growth in the double-digit range.

PCCW to net HK$2B

HONG KONG—Pacific Century CyberWorks net profit from its local telephone business in 2001 was forecast at over HK$2 billion ($257 million).

The South China Morning Post, quoting a leaked document from the company to a syndicate of banks for debt refinancing, reported the earnings forecast for PCCW-HKT in 2001 was 63 percent lower than its full-year 2000 earnings of HK$5.68 billion.

Avon posts record results

NEW YORK—Avon Products Inc. has reported record sales, and earnings per share for the fourth quarter and full-year 2000 are in line with the company's previously stated expectations and Wall Street's estimates.

Avon also said it was comfortable with analysts' estimates for 2001 earnings.

For the fourth quarter, Avon reported earnings per diluted share of 81 US cents. Excluding one-time items, earnings per share were 65 US cents, a 12-percent increase over 58 US cents in the year-earlier period and consistent with guidance provided by the company in early January.

Regus to expand network

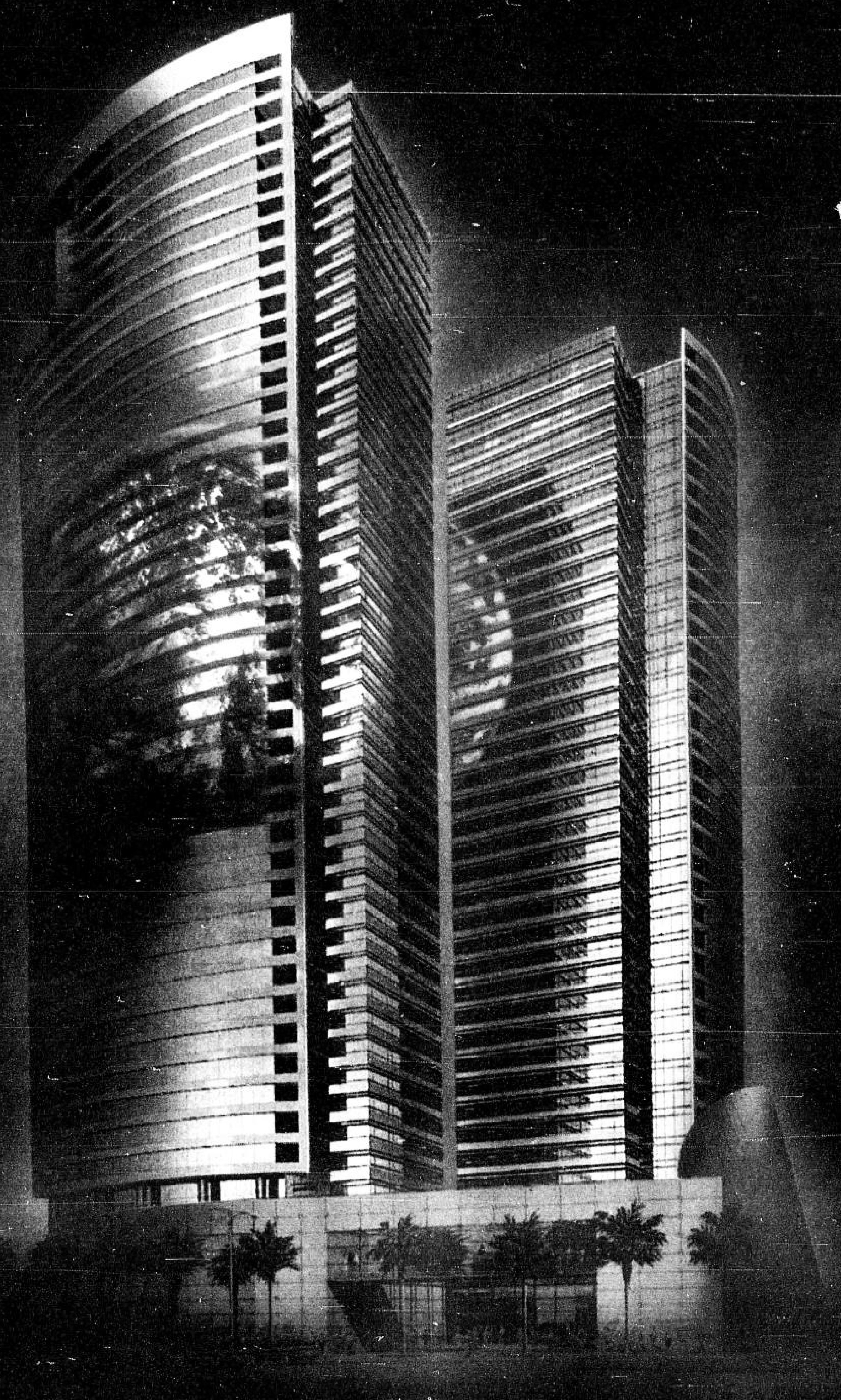
REGUS, a leading global instant office provider, has launched a campaign to expand its international network of business centers via franchising.

Regus Group corporate development director Chris Boulton said the move elicited very positive response from the property sector.

"We already work with partners in the form of joint ventures and income participation deals, and so Regus Franchise is the logical next step," Boulton added.

"Before you even show me your designs, remember I have only one standard. Absolutely no other building should come close."

Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco



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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **ERNESTO P. GALANG** was extrajudicially settled w/absolute sale among his heirs under Doc. #9726; Page 92; Book 31; Series 2001 of Atty. Danilo B. Banares, Notary Public of Makati City.
(PDI- Feb. 7, 14, & 21, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that ACR No. E059734 under the name of **MARI JANE AKARURU** was lost. *(PDI-Feb. 7, 14 & 21, 2001)*

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

Oxfam

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Contract: 18 months (post dependent upon external funding)
Ref: FPSM-HP/PHIL

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The post-holder will manage the finance and programme services team of this multi-sectoral humanitarian programme in Central Mindanao in accordance with Oxfam policies and agreed minimum standards and in line overall organisational objectives.

Key Competencies:

Essential

- Practical experience in management of finance, administration and human resources
- Proven effective experience in personnel management and team building
- Ability to prioritise work demands and distribute workload to enable the team to meet targets within deadlines
- Educated to part qualified accountant level and/or proven accounting experience
- Computer literacy - good working knowledge of spreadsheets is essential (Word and Excel)
- Good written and spoken English and Filipino
- Ability to work in stressful conditions and in a multi cultural setting
- Willingness to travel to remote areas and for extended periods

Desirable

- Previous experience with an Non-Governmental Organisation would be an advantage.
- Commitment to Oxfam's aims, and to Oxfam's equal opportunity and gender policies.

Closing date : 22 February 2001
Interview date : 27 February 2001 (only short-listed applicants will be advised)

Submit application letter with complete C.V. to:

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Diliman, Quezon City 1101
Fax: 927-0499
Email: common@oxfamgb.org.ph

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue,
Makati City
Fax No. 8954024
Tel Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **SMARTWEB PHILIPPINES, INC.** with address at Borromeo Arcade, F. Ramos St., Cebu City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Information Technology Service Operator at a capacity of 57,600 Man-Hours Per Year and with proposed plant site at Borromeo Arcade, F. Ramos St., Cebu City has been officially accepted on **January 25, 2001** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the abovementioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **DENNIS R. MIRALLES**
Director
Investment Assistance Department

(PDI - Feb 7, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

For the Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems
under the
LGU Urban Water and Sanitation Project (LGU-UWSP)

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) on behalf of participating Local Government Units (LGUs) and their respective Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committees (PBACs) would like to invite interested local and foreign firms to apply for prequalification and eventually to submit a bid, if prequalified, for the **Design, Construction, Operation, Maintenance and Management of Water Utility Systems under a Long-Term Design-Build-Lease Contract** in following:

- **Bohol Province—Municipality of Alicia;**
- **Misamis Occidental province—Calamba, Lopez Jaena, Panaon, and Sinacaban municipalities and Oroquieta City;**
- **Quezon province—Buenavista and Padre Burgos**

Prequalification documents are available for issuance to interested potential bidders at the Industrial Restructuring and Research (IRR), 3rd Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City with telephone no. (632) 867-3221 and fax no. (632) 815-1517; DBP Branches in Ozamiz and Dipolog in Misamis Occ.; DBP Area Management Office in Lucena City; and the offices of the Mayors of the participating city and municipalities. Documents shall be made available to interested bidders on **February 6-12, 2001.**

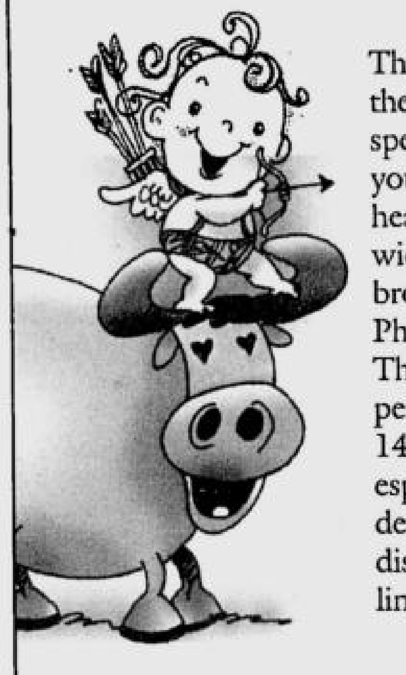
Five (5) copies of the duly accomplished prequalification statement together with all the documents required to support the statement shall be submitted to the DBP-IRR on or before 5:00 p.m. of **February 26, 2001** (the "Submission Deadline").

The PBACs of the participating LGUs reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor informalities therein, or to accept such bids as can be demonstrated to be advantageous to the participating Local Government Units.

(Sgd.) **MARIETTO A. ENECIO**
Vice-President
Development Bank of the Philippines

(PDI – Feb. 6, 7 & 8, 2001)

Sweet Nothings



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TRIVIA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Milk factory

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For the Record. Condensed milk was developed by Gail Borden of Wolcottville, Connecticut in 1853 after witnessing the deprivation of immigrant babies on a transatlantic ship crossing because the cows on board had milk sickness. Evaporated milk, which was not sweetened like condensed milk, became available only in the 1920s. The first known 'milk bottle' dates back to at least 1866, though the first patented bottle, called "Whiteman's milk jar," was not patented unitl 1884 in New York. The store-bought paperboard milk carton was patented by Pure-Pak of Detroit, Michigan, in the 1930s. 'Powdered' or 'dry milk' was first marketed by the Carnation Company in 1954.

Past Forward. This day in 1986: Snap Philippine presidential elections were held, pitting the tandem of Ferdinand E. Marcos and Arturo Tolentino of KBL against Corazon C. Aquino and Salvador Laurel of UNIDO.

WORD WATCH

Tandem (tan'dehm) : from the Latin *tandem*, 'eventually, at length'; its use for 'acting conjointly' arose from an 18th-century play of words, in which 'at length' was jocularly interpreted as 'lengthwise, in a straight line, and the word was applied to a 'carriage drawn by two horses one behind the other in a straight line' (thus later the *tandem* bicycle).

PDI – February 7, 2001

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How to have your bread and eat it, too

Force Field Analysis is a method for listing, discussing and evaluating the forces for and against a proposed change.

RECIPES for LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

THE SPORTS story reported that, notwithstanding an injured left knee, Tiger Woods showed that nothing could keep him from his starting time at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. He had a brace on for days but decided to take it off before he played. He was quoted as saying: "It felt sore, yes, but when it's time to play, its time to play."

No wonder Tiger has become a living legend in golf at a very early age. He is purposive. He is focused. He is committed. He acts with determination. We can't be clones of Tiger Woods but we could be as successful and fulfilled as he is in our own lives by being equally purposive, focused, committed and action-oriented.

Feedback

Cesar Z. Gomez, vice president for corporate communication at the First Philippine Holdings Corporation e-mailed us his own insights about our Workshop on Setting Personal Goals, Objectives and Action Plans. His comments are:

"My perception (admittedly limited) is that there is a lack of ambitious goals by people (with respect to service for the country and possibly even personal goals). I imagine the lousy economy over the years and the political grandstanding have taken their toll among the people. I see a process here: a) have a personal life plan, b) include ambitious goals in the life plan, c) experience over time will tell you how to craft the ambitious nature of the goals, e.g., reduce or eliminate grand plans for certain areas, keep and even expand grand plans for other areas, d) develop a sub-process for handling fears, problems, frustrations, disappointments, e) regularly review /update ambitious plans.

"Though I rushed through your article, from past reflections, a tempering of goals could imply compromising with some principles and clearing, reducing or downsizing goals to the extent that the human potential of the person is not achieved."

Very well said, Cesar. Thanks for this gift of feedback. Man, indeed, does not live by bread alone. He must know what bread he will eat, how to obtain that bread, really get that bread and eat it. And it better not be ordinary bread.

Forces

Our recipse for this week is not about making bread, but is about getting that bread and eating it. It is, as Cesar puts it, handling fears, problems, frustrations and disappointments. Therefore, you will now brainstorm to determine the forces that will drive or restrain you from achieving your Big Life Goals (BLG). We will use this Field Theory developed by that brilliant German psychologist Kurt Lewin.

The following are excerpts from a good write-up on Force Field Analysis from the website *http://www.exnet.iastate.edu/Pages/communities/tools/forcefield.html.*

Force Field Analysis is a method for listing, discussing and evaluating the various forces for and against a proposed change. When a change is planned, Force Field Analysis helps you look at the big picture by analyzing all of the forces impacting the change and weighing the pros and cons. By knowing the pros and cons, you can develop strategies to reduce the impact of the opposing forces and strengthen the supporting forces. Forces that help you achieve the change are called "driving forces." Forces that work against the change are called "restraining forces." Force Field Analysis can be used to develop an action plan to implement a change.

Specifically, it can determine if a proposed change can get needed support, identify obstacles to successful solutions and suggest actions to reduce the strength of the obstacles.

The types of forces to consider are:

- Available resources
- Traditions
- Vested interests
- Organizational structures
- Relationships
- Social or organizational trends
- Attitudes of people
- Regulations
- Personal or group needs
- Present or past practices
- Institutional policies or norms
- Agencies
- Values
- Desires
- Costs
- People
- Events

The process for doing a Force Field Analysis is:

1. Start with a well-defined goal or change to be implemented.

2. Draw a force field diagram. At the top of a large sheet of paper, write the goal or change to be implemented. Divide the paper into two columns by drawing a line down the middle. At the top of the left column, write "Driving Forces." Label the right column "Restraining Forces."

3. Brainstorm a list of driving and restraining forces and record them on the chart in the appropriate column.

4. Once the driving and restraining forces have been identified, ask the following questions:

Are they valid?

How do we know?

How significant is each of them?

What is their strength?

Which ones can be altered?

Which cannot?

Which forces can be altered quickly?

Which ones only slowly?

Which forces, if altered, would produce rapid change?

Which only slow change in the situation?

What skills and/or information is needed and available to alter the forces?

Can we get them?

5. Assign a score to each force, from 1 (weak) to 5 (strong). The score is based on (a) the strength of the force and (b) the degree to which it is possible to influence this force.

6. Calculate a total score for each of the two columns.

7. Decide if the goal or change is feasible. If so, devise a manageable course of action which a) strengthens positive forces, b) weakens negative forces, c) creates new positive forces.

Things are getting clearer now. Therefore, next week, we should be ready to set our objectives on a year-to-year basis and action plans on a day-to-day basis.

(E-mail feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.zzn.com)

BLG #1 By November 30, 2005 at the cost of PhP2.5M, I would have built a split-level house with 120 sq m. floor area with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room with a foyer, a kitchen cum dining area, two-car garage, surrounded by fruit bearing trees and flowering plants on a 200 sq.m. lot in Antipolo City.

Helping/Driving Factors	Hindering/Restraining Factors
• There are many new residential areas being developed in Antipolo.	• Most of these residential villages are selling pre-fab houses with the lot.
• I am a member of Pag-ibig Housing.	• I will be paying off my car loan until July 2002.
• Wife is also earning.	• Wife's company not doing well and might retrench some employees soon.
• Will defer all travel plans until after the house is built.	• Two sons are attending private elementary schools, one is in high school and will enter college by school year 2003.
• College-bound son is striving hard to enter the University of the Philippines where school fees are very low.	• All three children are presently attending private exclusive schools where school fees skyrocket like anything anytime.
• My mom promised to help financially.	• Mom is old and sickly.
• I will stop smoking.	

Living the spirit of People Power 2

By Tita Datu Puangco

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I am a 26-year-old employee working in Makati. I want to thank you for your past articles on activism. They emboldened me to join the rallies, going on leave from work for two days. I am proud to say I was at Edsa all through the days and nights. I also joined the march going to Mendiola. I have never felt so empowered, so fulfilled and optimistic as when I saw the unity, caring and sharing of the masses of people whom I met, marched and shared food with. Now that we have a new President, I don't want the spirit of People Power 2 to end. Please advise me how to continue to live the spirit of People Power 2, as an ordinary employee and citizen.

People Power Inspired

Congratulations! We can sense that your becoming a participant rather than simply a spectator of People Power 2 has become a powerful learning experience for you. Now your concern is how to continue to live the spirit of People Power 2 in the day-to-day, ordinary moments of your life as an employee and citizen.

Simplicity

Here are some thoughts. One is to practice voluntary simplicity. Voluntary simplicity means scaling down to the basics and enjoying life. We have to shift our paradigms. The materialistic, consumerist world has influenced us to think that having more means living more and being more. This negative culture was termed by someone as a sickness called affluenza. Affluenza is so prevalent it encourages people to steal, kill, grow in debt and disregard human rights in pursuit of opulence and luxury. This is the reason behind the corruption of values in our society. But the opposite is true, to live simply means to enjoy the essence of life which is being rather than having.

This idea has widespread consequences. It will enable us to enhance our sensitivity to poor people around us. It will allow us to open our cabinets because, as Chiara Lubich says," the clothes or things in your cabinet that you do not use belong to your brother in need." If all people share what is in excess then there will be less poor people in our midst. Our surplus can be at the service of others.

Education

We agree with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that poverty is the number one concern of the country today. We are sure that at the macro level, the government will have its anti-poverty projects. But at our level we can do something. So, if one lives simply, then his or her surplus can go to sending one poor person to school. You cannot imagine what a great gift and enabler education is to a poor person. In today's global and technology-driven world, the lack of education deprives our people the opportunity to lift themselves morally and economically.

Living simply likewise helps the planet. The gravity of the garbage problem in Metro Manila is a testimony to our capacity as urban dwellers to consume, leaving a trail of garbage behind us. A tree takes from the soil only what it needs. Human beings, disregarding the laws of nature, want to acquire and consume more and more goods, stripping the earth of its resources and polluting the environment. We end up getting sick because we overeat and indulge ourselves. When we live simply, we go for sustainable development that protects the planet. We are aware that living in simplicity is not easy. Most advertising in mass media, and now even in the Internet, are aimed at creating insatiable needs and selling more products that you don't need and may not even use.

Excellence

Another way is to work with excellence. Be the best in your job. Work is a patriotic duty. From the fruits of our labor, we provide service and useful products to our family and country. We are able to pay taxes that provide for government services. Productive work strengthens companies, so they can continue to generate jobs and create capital. Other Asean neighbors, even a critical person like Singaporean stateman Lee Kuan Yew, recognize that the Filipino is talented and creative. Let us work with imagination and innovation highlighting our positive virtues rather than dwell on our flaws as a nation. Let us be part of enhancing the image of our country through our good example.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The other way is to learn to work in teams. Let us overcome our individualistic tendencies and be more open to building unity at work, or at home or in public places. We know that unity enables us to build projects that really matter. Take a look at the Banaue terraces or the skyway. Only teamwork or unity among people enables us to move forward. What makes this difficult is often our ego. It cripples us from being open and affirming the good in others.

Civic consciousness

Finally, we should live with a strong sense of civic consciousness. This means always tending towards the common good, suppressing often personal interest. We are disappointed for example with politicians who joined people power who now demand positions in government. Let us not forget that we rose up as one people and one collectivity not because of them but in spite of them. It is sad, for example, that our country has a low rate of people who volunteer for civic projects. One cure to prevent us from focusing too much on ourselves is to be at the service of others.

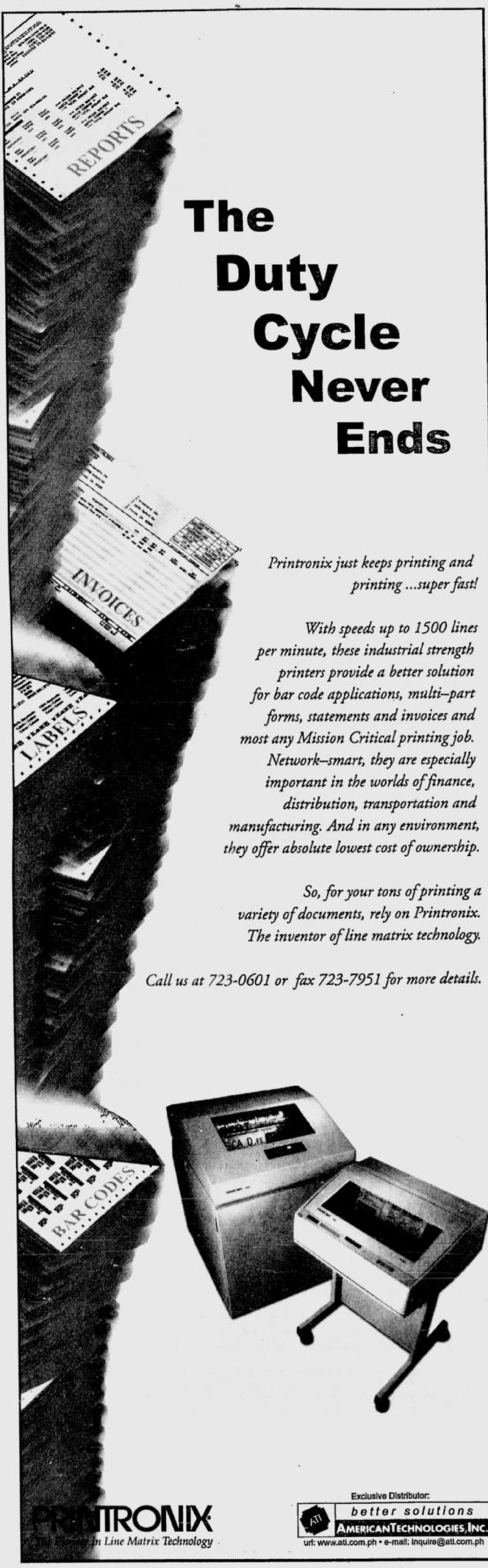
In the coming months, there are a number of opportunities to exercise voluntarism. There is the coming May election. Try to educate all the members of your household or your neighbors on the sacredness of the ballot, specially the helpers, drivers and messengers. We have to help them rise above personalities and vote for ideas and principles. We also have to realize that the elections are not the end but the beginning of our involvement as citizens. Let us watch our elected officials discharge their functions. Let us be supportive, yet vigilant. Let us constantly remember that sovereign power resides in the people. Elected politicians have a social contract with the citizenry. People power has proven that citizens can withdraw or enforce effectively the contract even after the elections.

Discipline

Civic consciousness can also be exercised in the office. Do used cups litter the drinking station? Clean them up and put them in the waste can. Does your office use a lot of paper? Propose a program that will encourage electronic copies instead of using paper. It means increasing productivity and reducing waste. The past years many factories have closed. The main reason is the lack of productivity and competitiveness. Being personally productive means working a full eight hours, reducing time lost to idle gossip and rework due to mindlessness and lack of concentration.

In conclusion, living the spirit of People Power, requires discipline and perseverance from each one of us. It means living our faith not just in the large events but also in our day to day lives. Let us love this blessed land by rising above ourselves at its service.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. For comments, feedback or advice for problems at work, send email to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*



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Unscrambling legal gobbledygook

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

CAREER*Tales*

WATCHING the impeachment trial on television was like attending a class on law. And of all the legal experts trying to explain the legal gobbledygook to us students, the best teacher of all was Vicky Avena.

Frequently seen on two of the leading TV networks, Avena shone brightly in the broadcast firmament with her mellifluous voice, pleasant demeanor and clear, concise and authoritative manner of delivery of legal opinions and interpretations. She had no trouble relating to every type of audience. She tried to define and illuminate. She never failed to drive home her point succinctly and directly.

But the lady lawyer is quick to brush off compliments, focusing instead on the reasons why she joined the legal profession. "I am fascinated by the process of understanding concepts and the solution of dilemmas. I like expressing myself, communicating, investigating and analyzing. This is what a lawyer is all about," says Avena.

Avena feels she is genetically predisposed to the profession. Her father practiced law all his life and an elder brother resides and practices in the US. "My father's generation was noble, idealistic and principled," says Avena, who laments the seeming shortage of these qualities today.

Noble calling

Nonetheless, she believes that law per se is indeed a very noble calling. And she almost missed answering its call. Avena says she was taking up Political Science at UP and was planning to study law afterwards when Martial Law came. "Suddenly, there seemed to be no sense in being a lawyer, so I switched to Fine Arts and majored in Visual Communications, Advertising," she recounts. After earning her degree, however, she realized she had to follow her dream. She graduated cum laude from the UP College of Law in 1982.

A general practitioner, Avena worked with the law offices of Sycip and Salazar from 1983 to 1988. She went into private practice the following year and started to teach at UP a year later. In 1992, she left for Columbia University in New York to take up her MA. Upon her return in 1994, she and some of her colleagues put up the Sison, Labitag, Avena, Sereno and Muyot Law Office. The firm disbanded informally last year.

UP-OLA director

"I maintain a limited private practice," says Avena. "I became a full-time professor this semester, which means I have a certain number of credit load. This includes my job as director of the Office of Legal Aid." She assumed directorship also this semester. The Office of Legal Aid (OLA), UP College of Law, is an internship program accredited as an academic subject. Under the program, fourth year students divided into teams get to handle actual cases under the supervision of a lawyer. As director, Avena oversees and makes sure policies are carried out and realized. OLA is also a legal assistance program for indigents.

Admittedly, Avena enjoys both aspects of her career. "I would like to maintain a balance between academe and law practice," she says. Although she finds that the sense of achievement she derives from exploring the potentials of the academe is sometimes more challenging, it is just as important that she continue her limited practice. "Knowing the system is functioning gives me a sense of reality," quips Avena. No doubt this knowledge keeps her on her toes.

Human experience

The most challenging element of lawyering, opines Avena, is analysis. "Human situations involving people caught in a bind are brought to you. Faced with the facts of the case, you are compelled to recall everything you have learned about the law and about human experience," she explains. A lawyer is tasked with finding answers and solutions. Although these are always clear-cut, nonetheless, seeking and getting to them is the best part, as far as Avena is concerned. "A lawyer tries to find the least painful and least expensive but best solution for his client, without going to court if possible and while remembering that there has to be justice, which includes compromise," informs Avena. She adds that it's up to the lawyer to educate his client about the law.

"Law is humanity and life," observes Avena. "It mixes the drama of life with legal principles, which are distilled from life and based on human experience, nature, logic and common sense." In a legal conflict, which is part of the drama of life, you either win or lose. In her 17-year practice, Avena has learned that "a lawyer can win a case if the facts and the law are on his side." It is, of course, his duty to defend and protect his client to the utmost. "But he must draw the line on fabrication and deceit. Truth is of supreme importance," says the lawyer, who alludes briefly to the impeachment trial where substance and technicality were greatly at odds. Avena declares, "Substance is of the highest priority. It should never be sacrificed and subverted."

Fairness

In any event, losing a case does not necessarily mean all is lost because according to Avena, a lawyer may cite mitigating circumstances and thus, strike a bargain and reduce his client's penalty.

Although the law in its majesty does try to be fair, practitioners who are always on the level—or honest—can be a problem, contends Avena. Of course, truth is an antidote and ally. "Moreover, when you appear before a judge who is fair and intelligent, you feel so honorable and dignified, you feel like a lawyer all over again," she allows. "When you encounter such a judge, your faith in justice is restored and no obstacle is insurmountable."

Avena remembers a time when she felt demoralized. No matter how good or competent you are, she thought then, if the milieu is not conducive, there's not much you can do. "But after a while, you see changes and very gradually, you regain zeal and inspiration," says Avena, who aspires to be like her late father—a noble and dedicated law practitioner.

Single by unconscious choice, Avena describes herself as an "optimist-realist subject to pressure." As a lawyer, she thinks loftily of her profession. Avena's yardstick for success is certainly not run-of-the-mill. "I believe real achievement or success is measured according to the substance of what you do. You have to be true to yourself and to your goals and ideals. As long as you do things right, everything else will follow," she says.

Inarguably, Avena finds satisfaction as a professor (she teacher Evidence and Civil Procedure) and as a law practitioner. She delineates, "The joy ofs teaching is knowing your students are interested in learning what you have to offer and that they appreciate it." On the other hand, a lawyer like herseslf finds joy in the challenge of resolving legal and human conflicts, which a lawyer tries to do by applying his knowledge and expertise.

In the near future, Avena looks forward to writing a book or two on legal subjects, and still on law, she also plans to pursue her doctorate (maybe in the US) as soon as circumstances allow. "In law, there is always room to grow and branch out," she concedes.

PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **REGINA GALANG REYES**, Subsection Editor

Treat your hair right

Healthy, shiny hair usually comes second only to vibrant skin in making one look younger. Yet, many unwittingly mistreat their hair with unhealthy styling methods and agents. Call it vanity and good grooming, a growing number of men and women have been subjecting their crowning glory to a lot of stress all for the sake of looking better or perhaps, younger.

Take those who are gifted with natural locks for instance. They can easily alter their hair's character, albeit temporarily, by a simple visit to a straightening salon. Those endowed with straight hair, meanwhile can easily have their mane permed to suit their fancy. But chemical treatments like perms and straighteners, including tints, dyes, and bleaches, can make your hair dry and brittle. If not averted, this could lead to premature hair loss.

If you are among those who have been abusing their hair without knowing it, take a cue: treat your hair right or you'll lose it prematurely. Take heed especially if you've observed that your hair loss is noticeably plentiful; if your fallen hair is shorter and much finer than normal; if you have dandruff and scaly scalp accompanied or preceeded by the thinning of hair; if your parents, grandparents or blood relations are bald; if your hair is fine, brittle or altered; and if you have entered the critical ages of 20, 30, 40 or 50 (for men) or over 35 (for women).

Premature hair loss can be very distressing. Contrary to popular notion, shampoos and conditioners are not enough to keep your hair from falling. A regular trip to the parlor may not be of much help either. The good news is: you can prolong the life span of your hair with Foltène — a revolutionary hair care treatment from Europe.

Containing a safe natural ingredient — Trichosaccharide — Foltène deeply conditions the scalp by stimulating the circulation of blood and nutrients into the hair follicles without being absorbed into the bloodstream, thus halting excessive hair loss.

Foltène is so easy to apply. After shampooing, towel dry your hair then apply Foltène directly to the scalp. Do not rinse it off and do not shampoo again for at least six hours to ensure essential contact time. Use only one vial at a time. For those with excessive falling or thinning hair, undergo the attack and maintenance phase where you apply one vial every other day for 40 days (20 vials). While in the maintenance phase, use two vials per week for two to three months. For those suffering from dandruff, dry hair, split ends and oily or dry scalp, use two vials per week for three months to ensure healthier scalp. Resume the attack or maintenance cycle as needed to maintain hair and scalp condition.

Foltène is not a cure for baldness, however. It cannot revive dead hair follicles. What it does is normalize the oily and dry areas to encourage the growth of fuller, thicker and healthier hair. After a few applications, the external appearance of hair improves in qualities — shine, softness, manageability, volume and more importantly, healthier hair without premature hair loss.

So before your hair's condition enters the irreversible stage of baldness, treat the hair you still have with Foltène. Then you can stop losing hair over hair loss.

For more inquiries, please write to:
The Patriot Bldg., Km. 18 West Service Road
South Luzon Expressway, Sucat, Parañaque City

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Unscrambling legal gobbledygook

(Story on B11)

Living the spirit of People Power 2

(Story on B10)

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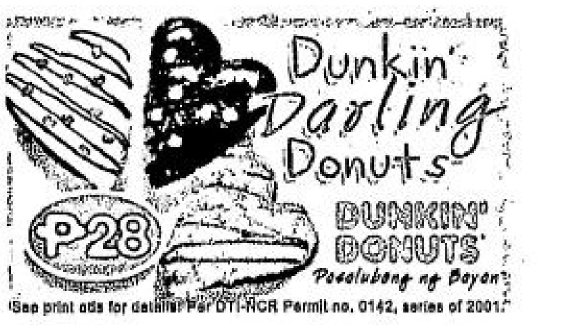
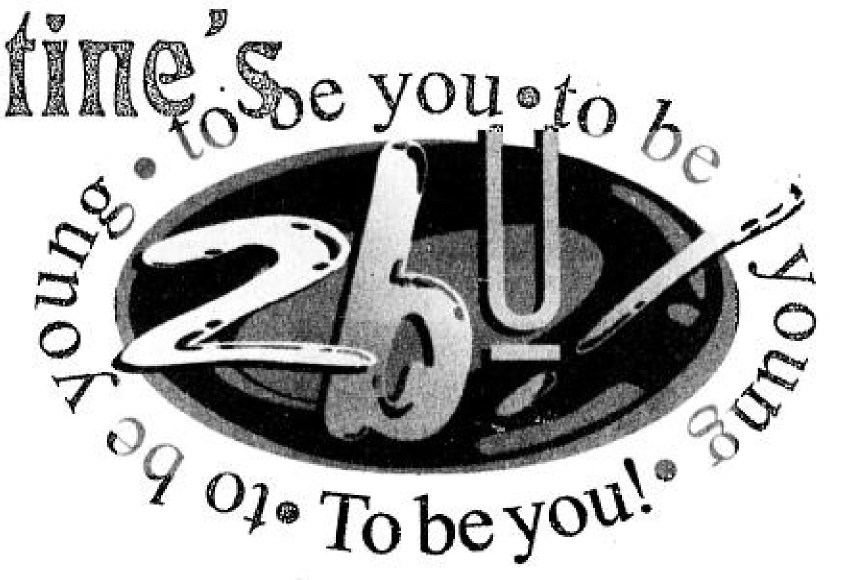
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor



See print ads for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0142, series of 2001.

Top picks for girls this Valentine's

BY JULES ALCANTARA


to be young • to be you • to be young • to be you • To be you!
2bU

TARA Santos

MAYA Calica

MIA Fausto

FREIDA Dario

ATTENTION, boys!

Valentine's is exactly a week away and you still don't know what to get her? Duh, hello, dude?! That's not exactly sweet! (Pardon me if I'm still in my "Dude, Where's My Car?" mode.)

If so, you seriously need to pick up a few pointers and suggestions from the editors of those precious reading materials that she always has to find time to read.

TARA SANTOS
editorial coordinator to the publisher, Preview

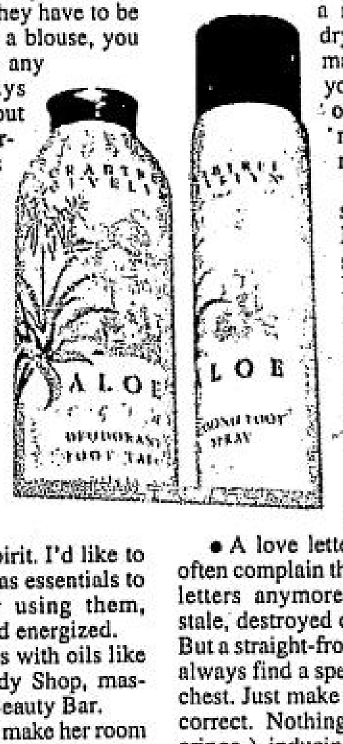
- A much needed vacation with no cell phones. There are times when you need to be away from work, family and friends.
- A "Valentine" to spend Valentine's Day with. This is self-explanatory.
- Time, attention and space. More space and attention for each other, but sometimes we need some space and time away from each other. For people in relationships, once in awhile you need these three things to strengthen your relationship .
- Lots of laugh trips with friends.

MIA FAUSTO
editor in chief, Candy

- A "feel-good" package. Prepare a package and fill it with tiny trinkets that would make the girl happy. Wrap each of the items and label them, like, "When you are broke...," "When you need a friend...," "When you are sad..." The rule is she'd open one gift each time she needs a quick pick-me-upper. The things could be a framed picture, a stuffed toy, a chocolate bar, anything, any little item that you think she'd appreciate.
- A pet. It would be nice to buy her a puppy that both of you could take care of together. If she can't have a puppy, you could probably give her a fishbowl with a pair of gold fish that she can put in her room. Each time she'd look at it, she'd remember you.
- The "I Love You" coupons at Humor Post. It would also be nice if the guy can create his own coupons, and have the coupons tailor-fit to their relationship. It would be sweeter if he makes them himself.

The point is, Valentine gifts do not have to be expensive. They have to be well thought of. A bag, a blouse, you can give those things any time of the year. Guys don't have to worry about being called a softie during this season of hearts because Valentine's Day is a perfect excuse to get mushy and do something really sweet.

MAYA CALICA
editor in chief, Seventeen Philippines



I'd like to suggest gifts that would pamper her body and her spirit. I'd like to think of these products as essentials to mini vacations. After using them, she'd feel recharged and energized.

- Aromatherapy pots with oils like lavender from The Body Shop, massage oils available at Beauty Bar.
- Scented candles to make her room a more pleasant environment. Try the Candlicious freshly scented candles available at Tickles.
- A nice mug with tea sachets with flavors like chamomile and peppermint. Try the tea at Crabtree & Evelyn.
- A CD containing sounds of nature like sounds of waves and of whales, relaxing music to meditate with. You can find the CD at Sounds Serenite at the Shangri-La Mall.
- Bath gels and foot spa products. Try the Spring Rain bath gel available at Crabtree & Evelyn.

FREIDA DARIO
associate editor, Metro

- "Gift from the Sea" by Anne Morrow Lindbergh, available at National Bookstore and PowerBooks. It's a book every woman, young or old, should have. It's like that friend you wish were always right next to you. Lindbergh's compelling revelations on love, relationships, serenity and life as women know it are a great comfort and never fail to inspire me during more meditative moods.
- CDs. Tower Records always has goodies for all music tastes, and it would be great if you knew what CDs she's had on her "to-buy" list since she blew her money last Christmas.
- Pearls. You love her, right? There's one thing every woman must have, and it is a good pair of pearl earrings or, perhaps, a pearl pendant. Visit Jewelmer, (they have branches at the malls) and check out their new styles. They never go out of style and they are particularly hot this year.
- Erricson R380. Our gadget columnist for Metro was telling me that this great new phone allows you to text, surf the Web and send and receive e-mail by simply using the point and tap interface or touch screen. It also has a notepad that stores written and spoken notes.
- Surprise her! Do something totally out of the ordinary and spend some quality time together. Take her to the place she's been bugging you to take her to (you know, the one you try to avoid because it's not your thing?).

Whatever you choose to give her, don't forget the most important thing: the love letter! Nothing beats a homemade Valentine's Day card with all the sweet nothings and reasons you love her (10 would do!). Or if you must, check out A Different Bookstore in Glorietta for a unique card or Humor Post for a cute one.

ROMINA URRA
editor in chief, Chalk

- Beaded patchwork bag by Mia Gonzalez. You can reach her at (0917) 834-6424.
- Girls can't resist a pamper-me gift—like a spa trip together where you can talk and relax comfortably. You can't resist the couple's suite in Danielli's Spa, 187 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (tel. 635-6875). It is inclusive of a room with wet and dry areas, jacuzzi and a massage for the two of you. You have a choice of shiatsu, Swedish, reflexology or combination.
- Make something special for your girl. It's the effort and the sweat that counts. Plus, it's nice and practical. Make an album of your special times together or make a CD of your favorite songs which you can play on your way to a day trip.

And from moi?

- A love letter never hurts. Girls often complain that they never get love letters anymore. Gifts can become stale, destroyed or they could get lost. But a straight-from-the-heart letter will always find a special place in her hope chest. Just make sure your grammar is correct. Nothing is more laugh- (or cringe-) inducing than a letter filled with incorrect tenses.
- Remember that scene in "Ten Things I Hate About You" where Patrick Verona (played by Heath Ledger) sings "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" and proceeds to melt "heinous bitch" Katarina Stratford's (Julia Stiles) heart? That can actually work in real life! Take my word for it, every girl secretly wishes to be serenaded! Every girl wants you, yes you Mister, to go **public**! Hire a helicopter that will drop a million fliers all over the city with the flier saying that you love her! She will surely feign embarrassment but I bet my pinkie fingers that you'll score 10,000 points.

Whatever you do, the point is you have to go public in your declaration.

- A little Kate Spade or Ishq bag would be nice, too.

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com

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A V-day tip in a flash:
To impress your date, magpaka-plastic ka.
This Valentine's, why carry paper bills when you can carry the card that's got more flash? Have your BPI Express Cash ready for the big day. To get one, just go to any BPI or BPI Family Bank Metro Manila branch or call 89-100. You can also log-on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. So on V-day, you're ready to flash it anywhere you see the MasterCard Electronic Seal. *Kaya magpaka-plastic ka na.* Get a BPI Express Cash!
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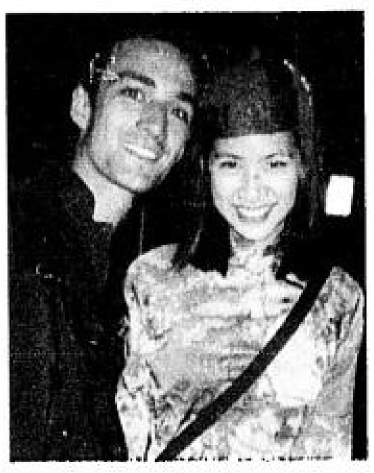
NEW YEAR'S DRAGON DANCE. EJ Litton does "dance dance revolution."


NEW Year mix of John Eastwood and Audrey Nguyen

CAN'T BEAT THE REAL THING. VJ Shannen Torres and friend Wynel

FLESHY SNAKE. Jill Tan and Miko Valenzuela

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP AND ERIC UY

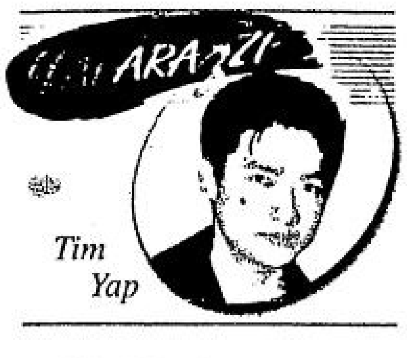
STARRY, STARRY NIGHT. Ana Martha Moreno and Celine Lopez

Of red hearts and golden snakes

CHICHI CHINOISERIE. Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Mayor Elenita Binay and Helmut Gaisberger

MANDARIN MANIA. Mark and Tessa Ablaza

FOUR PLAY. GP Reyes, Miguel Rosales, Karen Borja and Vinci Montaner


Tim Yap

"KUNG Hei Fat Choy!" echoed on everyone's lips. The greeting was done in a sing-song, cheery Chinese manner with matching peck on the cheeks. It seemed equally, if not more festive, than the eve of Jan. 1.

Revelers were clad in de rigueur red, gold, polka-dotted and snake-skin outfits to welcome the Year of the Golden Snake. At the Mandarin Oriental, as early as 5 p.m., the hotel's quaint bazaar at the carpark drew crowds to the various displays of nifty novelties from lucky charms to aromatherapy candles, as well as chinois delicacies, which were from-here-to-eternity that new year's night.

A "prosperity motorcade" followed, with limousines and dragon dancers parading around Makati Avenue, led by Mandarin GM **Helmut Gaisberger**, dapper in a chi-chi chinois barong; he was joined by officials of Cathay Pacific and Motorola.

Hong Kong geomancer **Joseph Chau** administered auspicious rites to bring in positive energy followed by a grand lion and dragon dance. This, before the festivities led to the main ballroom, where a sumptuous buffet was served to the A-list crowd consisting of diplomats, businessmen, politicians and society mavens.

Stars version

Before that, I was at Stars where **EJ Litton** hosted his own stellar version of the snake year's entry. The same bash was also offered for the joint birthdays of yours truly and hot interior designer **Miguel Rosales.**

A month before, the Professional Models Association of the Philippines or (PMAP) hosted their yearender "Mad Hat Party!" also at the spectacular Stars. (Photos appear on this page.)

"I like it like this, very intimate," remarked a guest while downing a martini. "I agree, it's a nice chill venue," said another as she picked on her dimsum. This, while **Charlie Ysmael** initiated some games before EJ ushered in his little "dragons" (actually little boys) who danced their hearts out around the bar.

The night ended with a mix of cake, *tikoy* and wine overflowing as guests compared notes on feng shui and fashion—two of the scene's favorite pastimes.

Ab-fab

That weekend, I headed toward the ABG's area, now renamed K8, where Absolut threw a splashy, snakey shebang at the Laureano compound.

K8, new bar H&H and Sambo's had funky satellite bars outside their venues along with gold- and red-clad samurai-looking servers. Guests were in spunky Asian attire, which ranged from a fusion of the Vietnamese ao dai and a *makapili* hat, to a leather cheongsams that had slits running up to the wearer's throat.

H&H served their popular chocolate martinis, while K8 took pride in their "poison," a potent mix of everything alcoholic. After a few trips to the bar, it is impossible not to paint the town red.

Indeed, the snake couldn't have asked for a more pompous welcome.

Mush for Valentine's

After seeing red, let's talk pink as MTV launches "Mush," tonight, 5:30-10:30 p.m. at Stars in Glorietta 4.

Their invite states:

Join us and be sweet
For a night of naughty treat
An explosion of love gush
And tricks for carnal rush
Calling the impulsive
And yes, the seductive.
Get ready to blush
As you bare it all in
MTV mush.

Ain't that mushy? So, I'll see ya all for a night of mush—and mush, mush more!

SNEAKY SNAKY. EJ Litton and Patricia Javier at the bar

NOT too fast, says wife Tess to EJ.

A V-day tip in a flash:

Money can't buy you love, but a little flash can help.

This Valentine's, flash the card for anything you need on that perfect date. Flash a BPI Express Cash to get flowers, pay for a romantic dinner, or maybe even buy more time with her over a cup of coffee. True, you can't buy love. But a little flash can go a long way. Get a head start. Get a BPI Express Cash today! Just visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank Metro Manila branch or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

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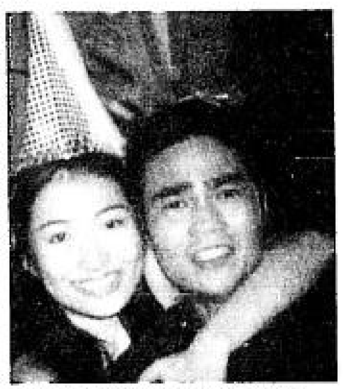
RAMP ROYALTY. Maricis Perez and Rissa Samson

TRIBAL DANCE. Carmina Sanchez and Robbie Carmona

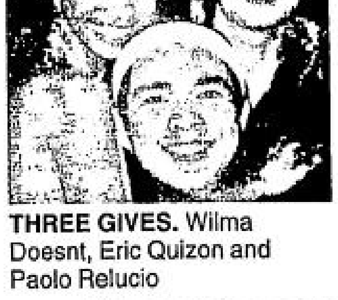
SEXY SNAKE. Samantha Lopez struts her stuff.

FASHION LEADERS. Grace Molina with Pepito Albert, Inno Sotto and Patrick Rosas

MAI TAI. Rachel Soriano and Baba Parma


MY RUDOLPH. Phoemela Baranda and Paolo Valdez

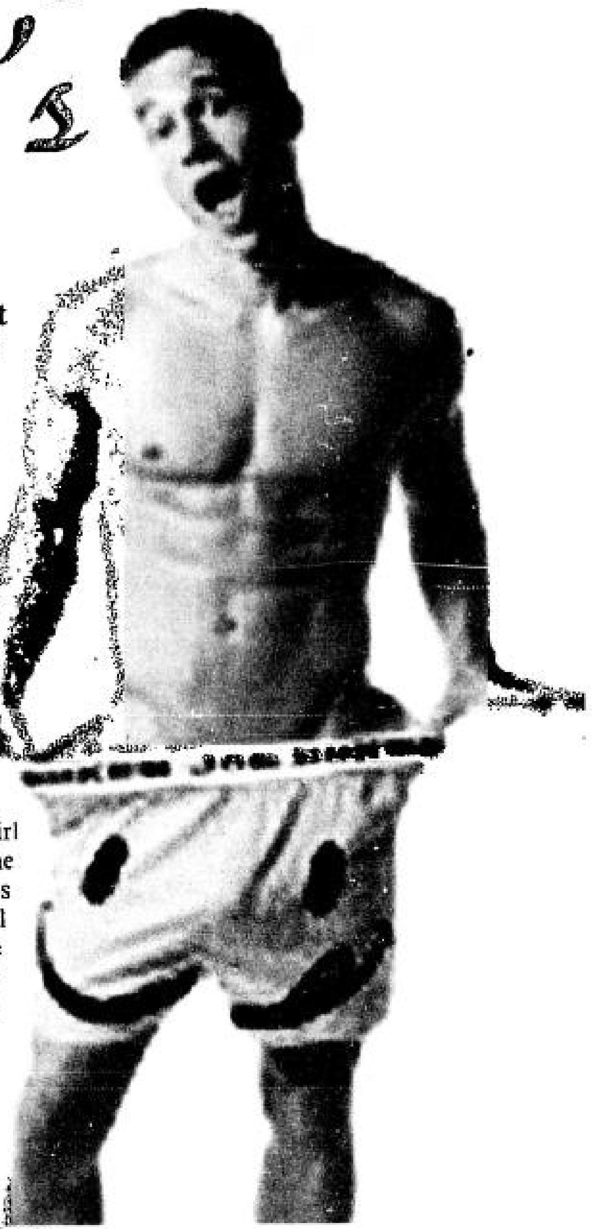
TRIPLE TREAT. Pepper Teehankee, Philippe Ticzon and Jojo Manlongat

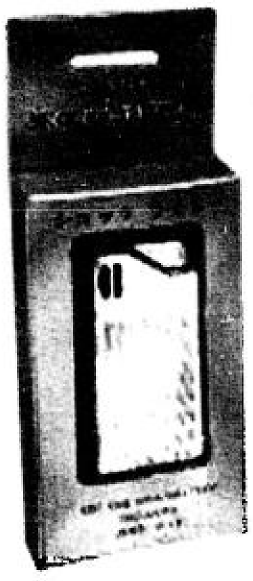

THREE GIVES. Wilma Doesnt, Eric Quizon and Paolo Relucio

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE. Lotis Villa, Ariel Atendido, Aina Calizo and Bryan Dy

TOP hat for Mel Vergel de Dios

What to give your guy this Valentine's





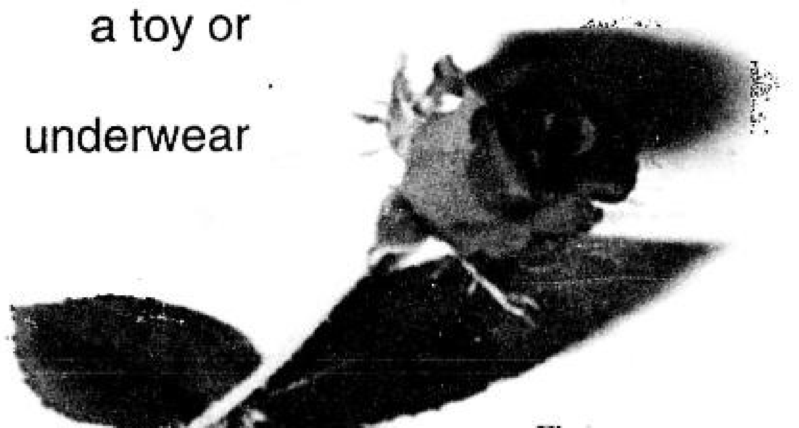
By Tammy David
2Bu! Correspondent

Break the monotony. Give him a rose, a toy or underwear

YOU starve for a month just to give your boyfriend a gift you think will endear you to him for life. Then Valentine's Day comes, he excitedly opens the gift, sees the "gem" you've hunted for for weeks and says the two words that will crush your heart: "Gee thanks." Mission not accomplished.

Valentine's Day is really unfair for girls. Not all guys get *kilig* whenever they receive teddy bears, chocolates or even cell phones. Also, some guys are sick of the colognes, the shirts and the heart-shaped pillows. "A guy usually gives the girl *pampaganda* and the girl *naman* gives the guy something for self-improvement," says Miguel. Usually guys like it when a girl gives something related to their hobbies like a soccer ball or that Ferrari cap he's been wanting for a long time. It's about time you do some research and start thinking like a guy.

Still can't think of anything? Here are some suggestions that can make your guy at least smile and give you a peck on the cheek. Whatever it is, it doesn't matter actually just as long as you make your guy feel loved and you don't sacrifice your entire bank account for one gift!



Flowers

It may be that your man has been looking for that perfect rose since the high school days. "It's not every day a guy receives a rose!" says Aries Lucero. And besides, wouldn't it be fun to see a guy's reaction when he receives a rose?

Book

Guys hardly read books and, sadly, the books

WHAT/ C7

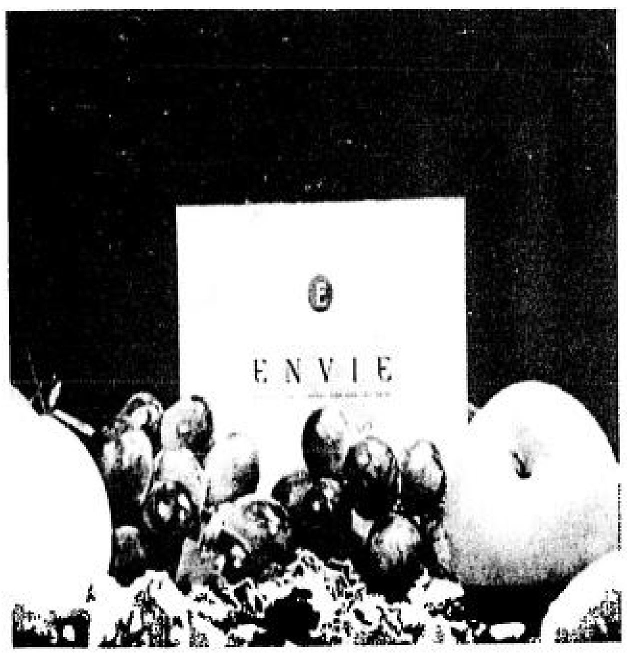
---

parent trapped
ms. merit answers

Q My daughter goes to a good school where a lot of rich people send their kids. They are having a graduation ball and I do not know how to tell her that I am having a difficult time financially. Yet, I want her to enjoy her final days in her high school. What should I tell her? LBB

Know the song, "We are Family"? Yes, mam, you are family. Your daughter has all the right to know your problem. That's what being a family is all about. Through thick and thin, you are there for each other. Besides, you are underestimating your daughter's intellect and character. Who knows, she might even be very supportive in times of your difficulties. Not unless you have spoiled her rotten. As a Chinese proverb say, "Parents do not love their children less just because they are ugly, and children do not love their parents less just because they are poor." I remember a friend whose parents are not well-to-do. But because his parents wanted to give them the best education, all the children were sent to top private schools. During his graduation, he and three other classmates did not attend the ball because they all felt that they could put their money to better use elsewhere. He grew up happy and very well balanced and he loved his parents very dearly. But if you feel very strongly about wanting her to attend the ball. Find ways and means to make her look the best on a tight budget. Money and things cannot absolutely guarantee enjoyment. You do not have to do everything brand new and first class. Besides, it's only a night. Ten years from now, no one will remember what she wore, what she did with her hair and face. Ten years from now, they will be remembering the silly things they did, the jokes they told, the laughter they had during that night. Tell her that and tell her to hold her head up high even if you have less now because it's not what one has that counts, it's what the person is that counts. I wish your daughter all the best.

Please send your questions to merit paper products, parent trapped, 88 Samson Road, cor MPL Road, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, or fax us at 02.842.1626.



The Beauty Pill: ENVIE comes to RP

The California based manufacturer of *ENVIE* (An-vay) has announced that their potent skin care tablets will now be available at selected Mercury Drug Stores, I-Mart and other leading drug and health stores. Nicknamed the beauty pill by researchers for its unusual skin regenerating properties, *ENVIE* has been found to significantly improve the complexion and skin tone of its users.

ENVIE is a skin care product that contains Numarine™, a natural marine protein complex and Cymogen™. These patented collagen-developing substances represent the cutting edge in skin care nutritional science.

Another unique feature of *ENVIE* is that it contains a high concentrate of PCO (Proanthocyanidin Olygomers), a powerful antioxidant that can help protect the skin from premature aging and prevent the formation of cancer cells.

ENVIE is manufactured in the United States exclusively for Prosource International, a company that specializes in designer nutraceutical products. For more information, please call Prosource at 7273768 or its distributor Venture People at 6824365 or 6824644.

A V-day tip in a flash:

Be her knight in flashy armor.

This Valentine's, treat her to an evening fit for a princess. Carry the card that's got more flash than cash – BPI Express Cash! Flash it in hip stores, bars, restaurants, and wherever you see the MasterCard Electronic Seal. To apply, just visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank Metro Manila branch or call 89-100 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. With or without your shining armor, you know you've got the flash, when you've got BPI Express Cash!

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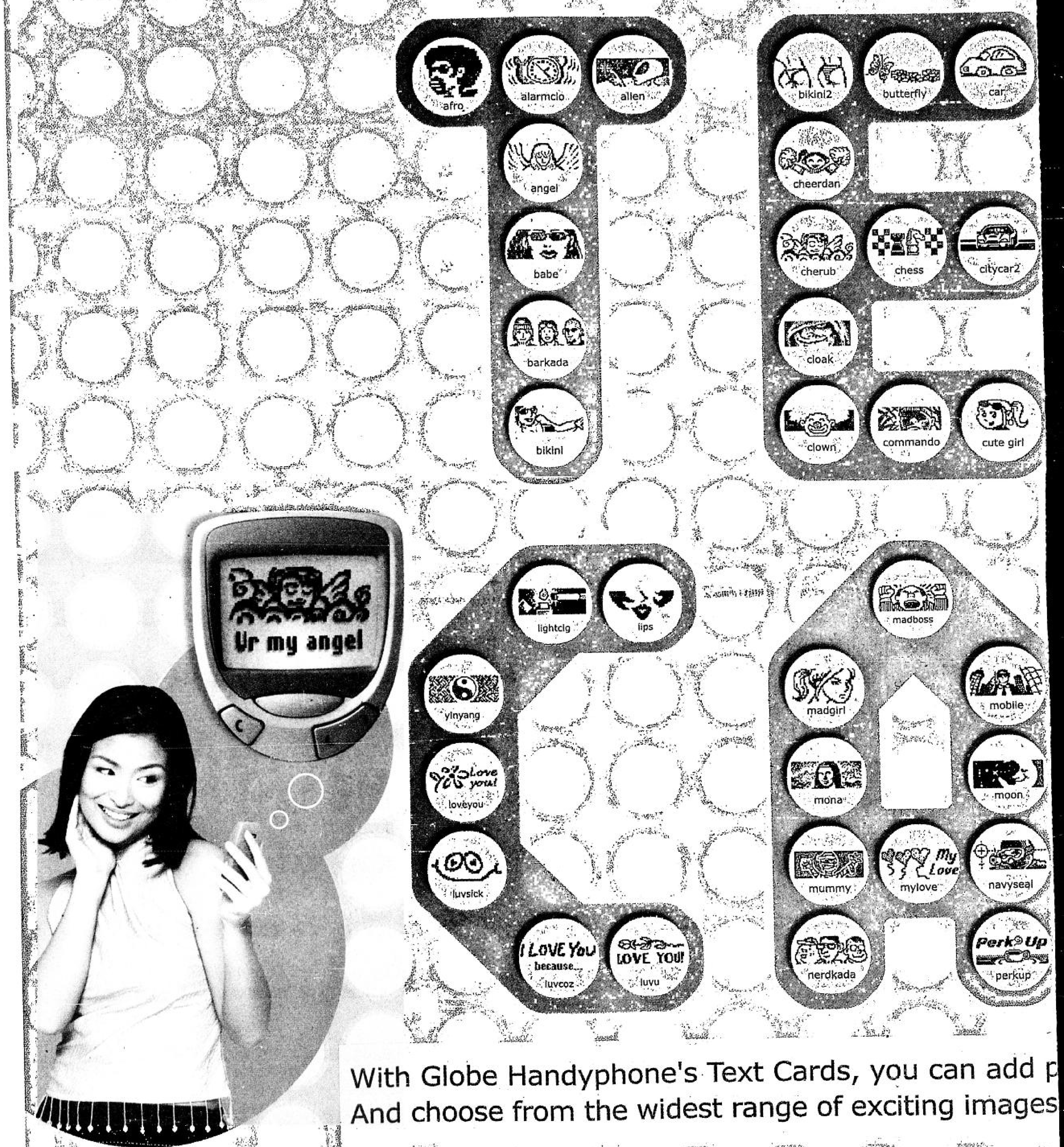
What comes next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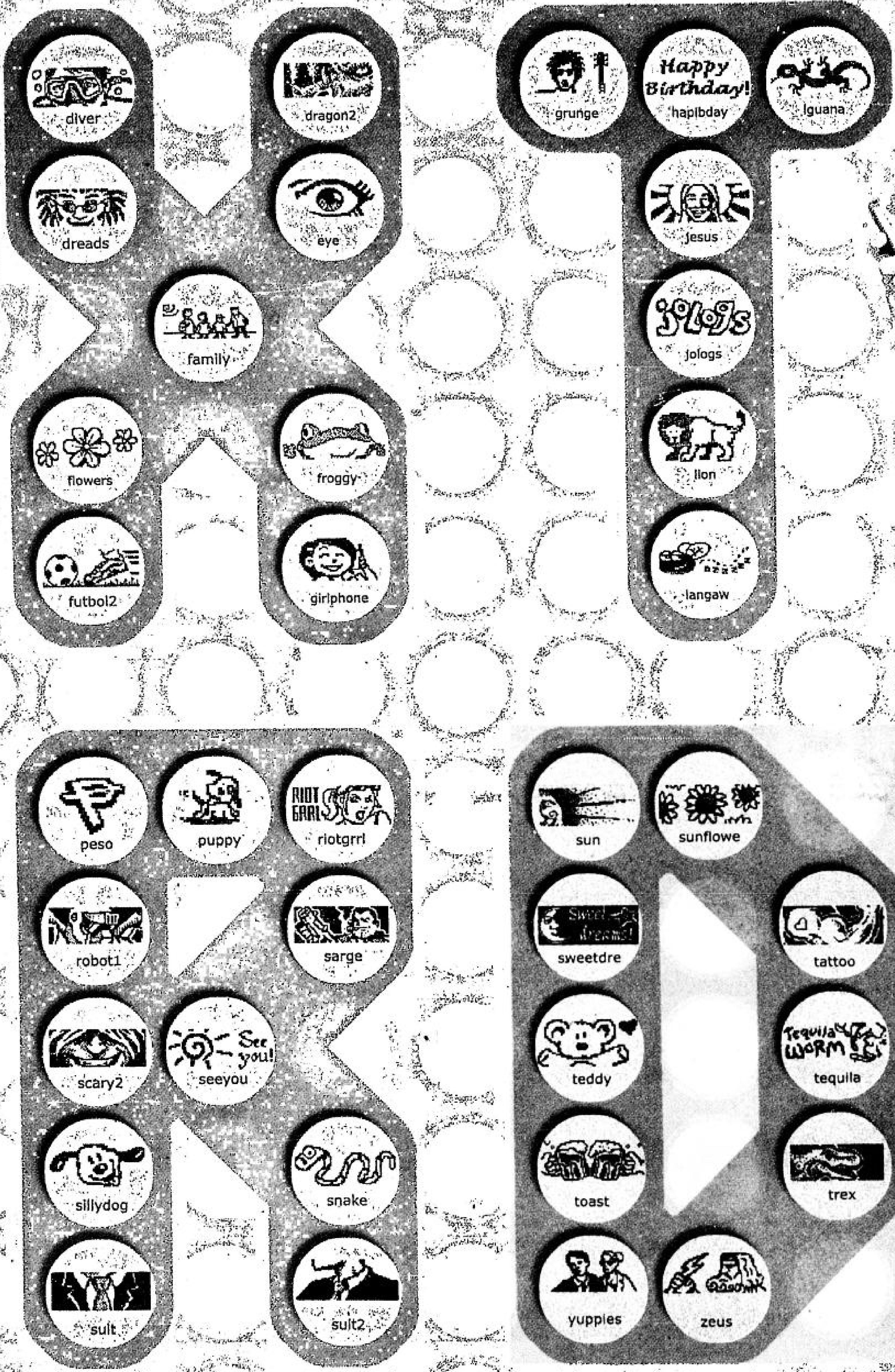
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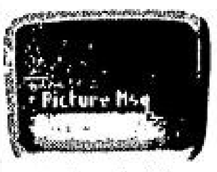
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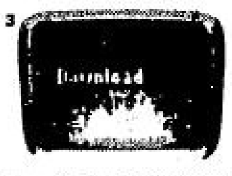

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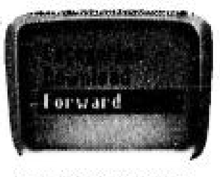

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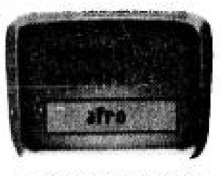

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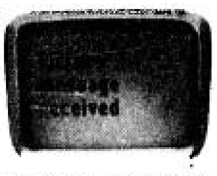

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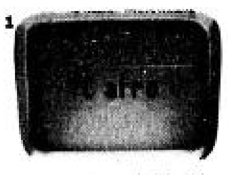

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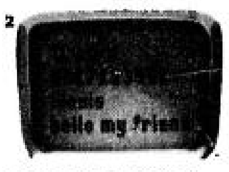
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From Valentine's to valedictory

By Blue Arden

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

BY NOW, most couples must have already planned what to do on Valentine's Day. One could surprise his girlfriend by filling up her room with flowers or he could treat her to a romantic dinner outside the city. She could send him flowers and a teddy bear at work or she could finally introduce him to her parents. They can take a long walk on the beach or they can head to a grove overlooking the bay.

Every year, it's a different story for different couples. The story of two people holding hands, loving the person they want to be with for the rest of their lives. However, it's not all good story for everyone. There are also persons out there who, for a time in their lives, spent the week before Valentine planning what their date would be like. People who held hands with their partners, thinking how a love so strong could last. They are just some of the people whose stories aren't heard during Valentine.

Michael is a 20-year-old political science student who has had his share of failed romantic relationships. From the very first girlfriend he had, down to the very last, nothing lasted for more than four months. "I feel like I was born to weed out the losers for other people by getting attached to them," he says. "Seriously, I'm tired of getting into relationships for fear that it won't work out like the last time." He was already in college when he first had a girlfriend, quite late by modern standards. "In high school, most of my *barkada* already had at least one girlfriend and a slew of flings. But I had a different perception of a relationship. To me, it's something that needs to be taken seriously, so I wanted to wait for the right time."

College became the right time for him when he finally met someone whom he could take seriously. "It just hit me then and there. She was the only person whom I felt treated me special." It was a whirlwind romance for them; they became an instant couple after only a month. The first few weeks weren't a problem, according to Michael. However, the succeeding days turned out to be a hassle. "I don't know if it was because it was my first time to get into a relationship, but I just didn't know what to expect and do. I couldn't help but be possessive, of course, but I wasn't that jealous of her friends. Not even of her guy friends. Not even when one particular guy kept calling her every day."

"I started to feel that I was slipping away from her life. Not because I fell out of love but because she was already sneaking out to see this other guy. My philosophy has always been never to force myself into someone else's life. I started to give way to this other guy, even if I didn't know him. We broke up after four months of intense romance. That was my longest."

It has been a year since, and a string of relationships after. Today, Michael has learned to play the game that his *barkada* play. After all, he also learned later that it was one of his friends whom his first girlfriend was seeing when they were still together. "Needless to say, he's not my friend anymore.

"I don't know what I'm going to do this Valentine. I've lost hope for romance. I've lost hope for serious relationships, commitment and love. I'm not saying I'm bitter. I'm good. I love what I'm doing—testing the waters, having affairs with ladies who aren't also into commitments. Besides, I have my friends. I can round them up and spend Feb. 14 with them. Or I can call up this hot chick I've been chatting up with lately. But definitely, it won't be a night of candlelight dinner—not that sort of thing."

Monica has a much different story to tell. "I don't even know where to begin," she says when asked to relate her experience. "I'm afraid people would tell me I'm stupid. Or that I should have known better. But how can you know better when there aren't any clues as to how things would end in a relationship?"

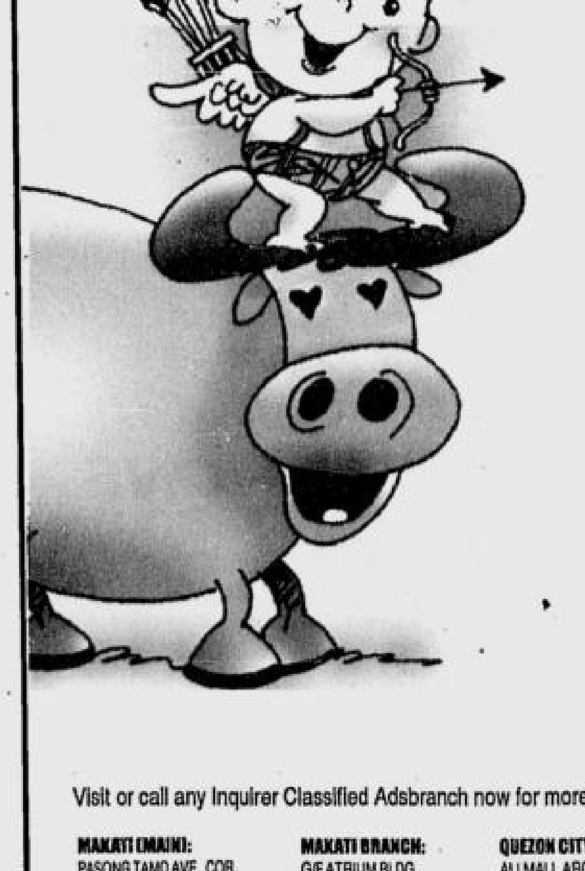
Like most tragic relationships, hers started like a fairy-tale romance. It had been a year since she broke up with her first boyfriend, and Monica felt she was prepared to take on a new one. "Don't take me wrong. I didn't plan it or anything. It was a spontaneous thing. At that point I even thought it was destiny."

She met her second boyfriend through a thesis she was making in college. "He was a doctor whom I met through a mutual friend. Coincidentally, I needed to interview one for my paper. Needless to say, we liked each other, so there," Monica says. Everything went fine for a year, until she got pregnant. "It was actually okay for both of us. He was very open about the idea that he was going to be a father soon. For the first three months, he even accompanied me to the gynecologist for my checkups.

"Finally, we decided that it was time for us to tell my parents. We decided to meet in a coffee shop after two days so we can plan what we're going to say. That day, I waited at the venue for over an hour. He didn't come. When I checked at his house that night, her sister told me that he already flew to the United States," Monica recalls.

This Valentine, Monica has no time for dating. "I don't even have time to think about it," she says. She has since told her parents about her condition, and they didn't like what happened. She now has to stay at her friend's place for the moment. "Somehow I regret the decision I've made. But then, I don't think one can experience love without regretting anything. You'll have to deal with it at one point. One must always keep that in mind."

Email the author at blue_arden@hotmail.com



Sweet ♥ Nothings

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He dumps her for other girls but she's still in love with him

CHATROOM

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Caloy and Sep,

Since I've turned 18 last summer, it seems that guys have been in and out of my life as my boyfriends. It's quite sad though because my relationships with them didn't last that long.

Last summer, I was introduced to this guy by our common friend. Though it was our first time to meet, it seemed like we knew each other too well. Maybe because of the stories that they told about us. He courted me and I entertained him until we became a couple.

Things seemed pretty okay until that night when he talked to me about his being in love, but not with me! He was in love with his cousin's girlfriend who happens to be my closest friend. I said it was okay and that I understood him because we're far apart and I wasn't there to take care of him when he got sick.

Until now, we're still friends. The other day, I said goodbye to him. I still have feelings for him and I can't go on with my life if I'll continue communicating with him. I'm jealous of the girl he's courting now. I need time for myself but I'm having a hard time. Is saying goodbye the right thing to do? If not, what should I do?

Please help.

LYKA

May I attempt to order your life since last summer for our readers' sakes?

Summer 2000: Turned 18, met Mr. Honest, guys came into your life, guys moved out of your life. Sometime after summer 2000, Mr. Honest courted you, stories flew fast and thick. You coupled up (by phone, I'll guess) and saw each other in school or at the mall once every two weeks. He got sick, met his cousin's girlfriend who happened to be your closest friend and fell in love with her! Months later, you're still friends (I bet you're texting now) and he's courting another girl apart from his cousin's girl! (That would never have worked.)

Back to the live action, sports fans. You need to dump him for good (for now) and get a distraction. Get a job, build kites, volunteer in an orphanage, anything. And stop entertaining guys *porque't binigyan ka lang ng hopia! Magpa-tokwa't baboy ka naman sa* Porch or something! *Parang wala ka na yatang* standards, sister.

I hope you haven't been using your "special purpose" on these guys because that's how it sounds, them coming in and out of your... er... life, treating you like a doormat or the town bicycle. And what's with this joker falling in love with apparently anything that walks on two legs and confessing it to you, no less!?

I hope I've straightened this out for you. May God keep you in His graces and protect your special purpose.

CALOY

First off, I'd like to say that the reason guys seem to just get in and out of your life easily is not because you turned 18. It is because you let them.

Second, what kind of guy was that? Giving him the boot was not enough; you should've whacked him on the head. Sure, sure, he was sick and as his girlfriend, you weren't around to take care of him. Well, you weren't his nanny and you are not now. Then he falls in love with another girl, fine, and his cousin's girl at that. Still fine. What I don't get is why were the two of you a couple in the first place. Maybe I'm wrong, but for a relationship to work and for someone to be sure about the status of the relationship s/he is in, time together is needed. I'll go with Caloy's guess that you hooked up via the phone and see each other, like, almost never? Next time, my dear, be a bit more selective. Believe me, it won't hurt. Being the other half in a couple after the first few seconds/minutes/hours/days/even weeks of meeting is neither cool nor modern. Just crass.

SEP

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

E-mail Caloy and Sep at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph or send letters to PDI Lifestyle, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Hair myths

MAKE OVER 911

Kinny Salas

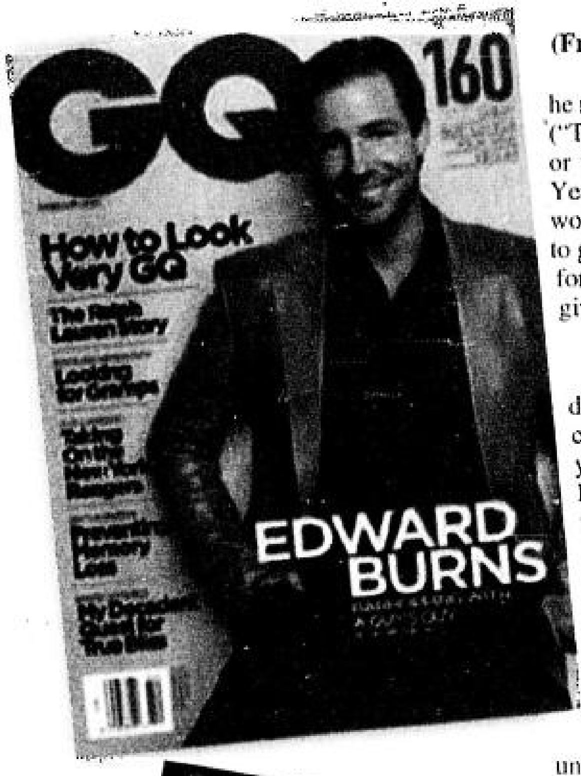
AS soon as more mature women find out what sort of column I have, they immediately give me their own beauty tips which were handed out by their grandparents and practiced by their family for generations. I have come across hair myths that have done more harm than good and are dismissed by dermatologists.

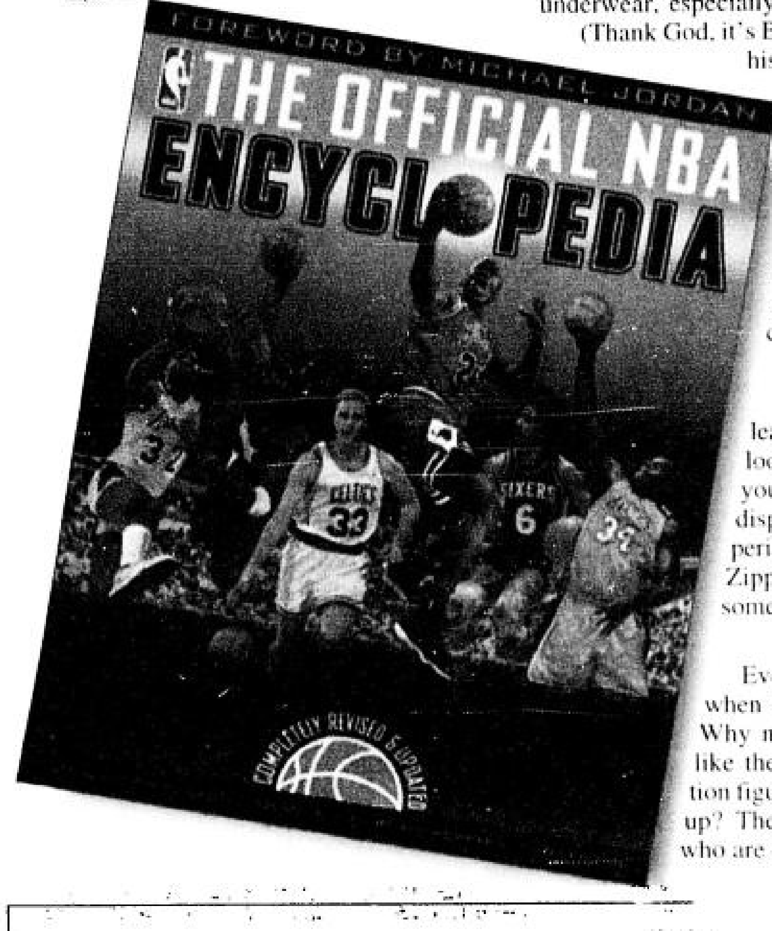
- **Brushing your hair 100 strokes a day.** This is one of the first beauty tips given to me and I know of some people who practice it. I advise against this because if your hair is normal to dry, you will end up damaging it and scratching your scalp raw. If oily hair is your problem, it will become greasier and attract more dirt. In my experience, 25 strokes are enough.
- **The split ends annihilators (without cutting your hair).** a) Braid hair and snip out split ends or the strands that stick out. These are the short ones that are still growing! You may, of course, get some split ends in the process but you won't get the ones that are twined into the innermost areas of the braid. b) Twist hair into sections and singe sticking out hairs quickly with a lighter or a cigarette. Girls, not only is this dangerous (you risk setting your head on fire), but you will encourage more split ends because the tips of these strands will now be drier and more fragile.
- **Cutting your hair stops them from falling.** You may argue that after a haircut you have less hair clogging the drain in the shower. Try this experiment. Get a longer hair strand from a friend (that came from her brush; don't yank it from her head) and run your finger through one of yours. Wet them and drop and loop on a white or light colored surface. Doesn't it look like she lost more hair when there was only one strand on both spaces? If you are alarmed by falling hair, run to a dermatologist ASAP. Normal hair fall is 75-100 strands a day.
- **Dandruff only appears on those with dry scalp.** An understandable mistake because scalp is skin and a flaking face means dry skin. This reasoning does not apply to the scalp. Only a balanced scalp is spared from dandruff. Seborrheic dermatitis is oily scalp dandruff that is yellowish in appearance.
- **If you have dandruff, do not shampoo every day because this dries the scalp and produces more flakes.** Whether you have dry or oily scalp dandruff, you should shampoo frequently with a medicated formula to treat the problem. Excess oil caused by not shampooing will cause those flakes to cling to scalp and hair strands. Yuck!
- **Baldness is inherited from the mother and not from the father. So, if your dad's bald but your mom's not, you are spared.** I thought this was true until I read Glamour magazine. Truth is, you get it from either side. In cases where both have bald genes and the son is spared, he got a recessive gene from a lucky ancestor.
- **Mayonnaise or olive oil is better than any expensive conditioner.** Nothing wrong with this. It's just that these two products are tough to rinse. The greasy residue they leave on your hair will weigh it down and make it dirtier. Other hair conditioners work just as well and are easier to rinse because they are water-based. Mayo and oil are more time-consuming. Who wants such hassle?

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 8974805

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

What to give your guy this Valentine's




FOREWORD BY MICHAEL JORDAN
THE OFFICIAL NBA ENCYCLOPEDIA
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(From page C3)

he reads are usually the thick coffee-table books ("The NBA Annual" or "The History of Ferrari") or the hard-to-find ones (comics like "Lobo"). Yeah, you have to shell out extra cash, but it would be cool for him now that he doesn't have to go to PowerBooks to scour for a favorite title for the nth time. It's really, really about time to give Mario Puzo's "Godfather" a rest.

Magazines

Slam, Maxim, FHM...not! To make him understand you (and the rest of our species' psyche) even more, why don't you get him a year's subscription to Cosmopolitan? GQ and Details won't hurt him much, but you will feel a little pain now that the dollar is up. At least six months of subscription would do, and if there's no improvement in his style or in your love life, you'll know what to give him for Christmas.

Boxer shorts or underwear

Most guys change their cell phones more often than they buy underwear. Buying him underwear, especially if it's his favorite brand (Thank God, it's Bench!), would surely melt his... heart.

Call cards

Even though the call card is perishable and a little unromantic, it can leave a big smile on a guy's face. You're giving life to the second thing—next to you, of course—that can't leave his side, his cell.

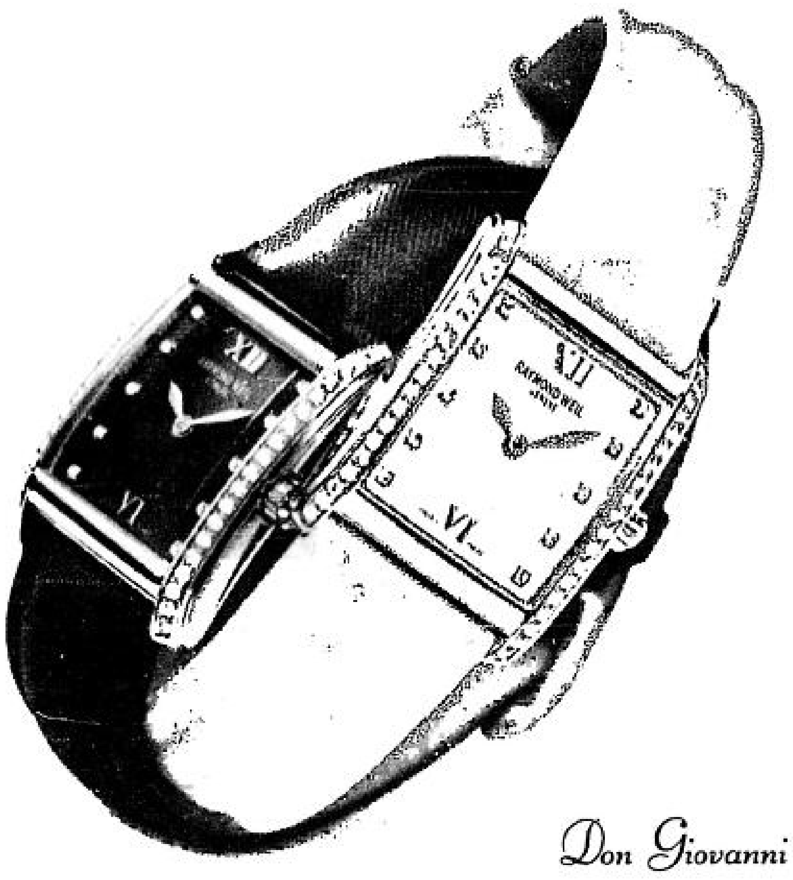
Lighter

Sick of your boyfriend leaving you all the time to look for a light? Why don't you give him a lighter? The disposable ones are okay but perishable; the real thing like Zippo is the best. Throw in some lighter fluid, too.

Toys

Ever wished you'd seen him when he was only 5 years old? Why not buy him his first love, like the hard-to-find G.I. Joe action figures and watch his face light up? There are a handful of guys who are still toy collectors.

RAYMOND WEIL
GENEVE



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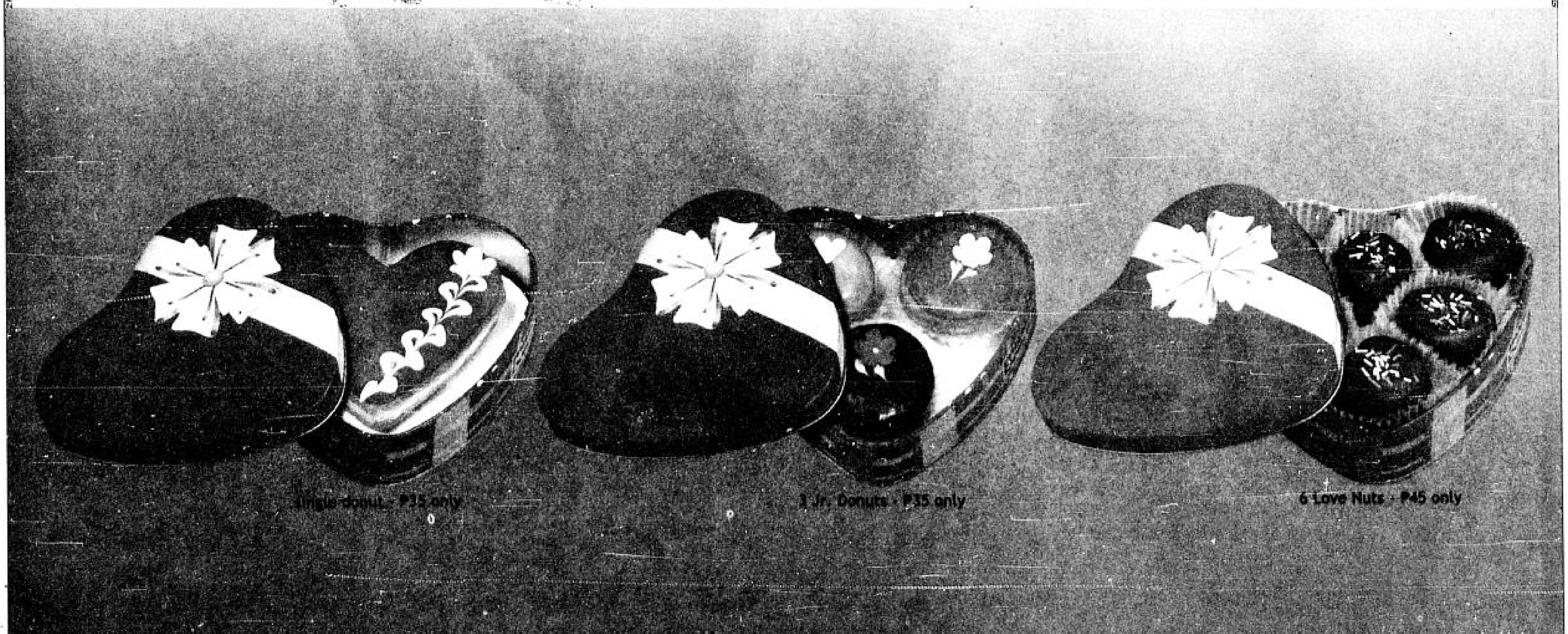

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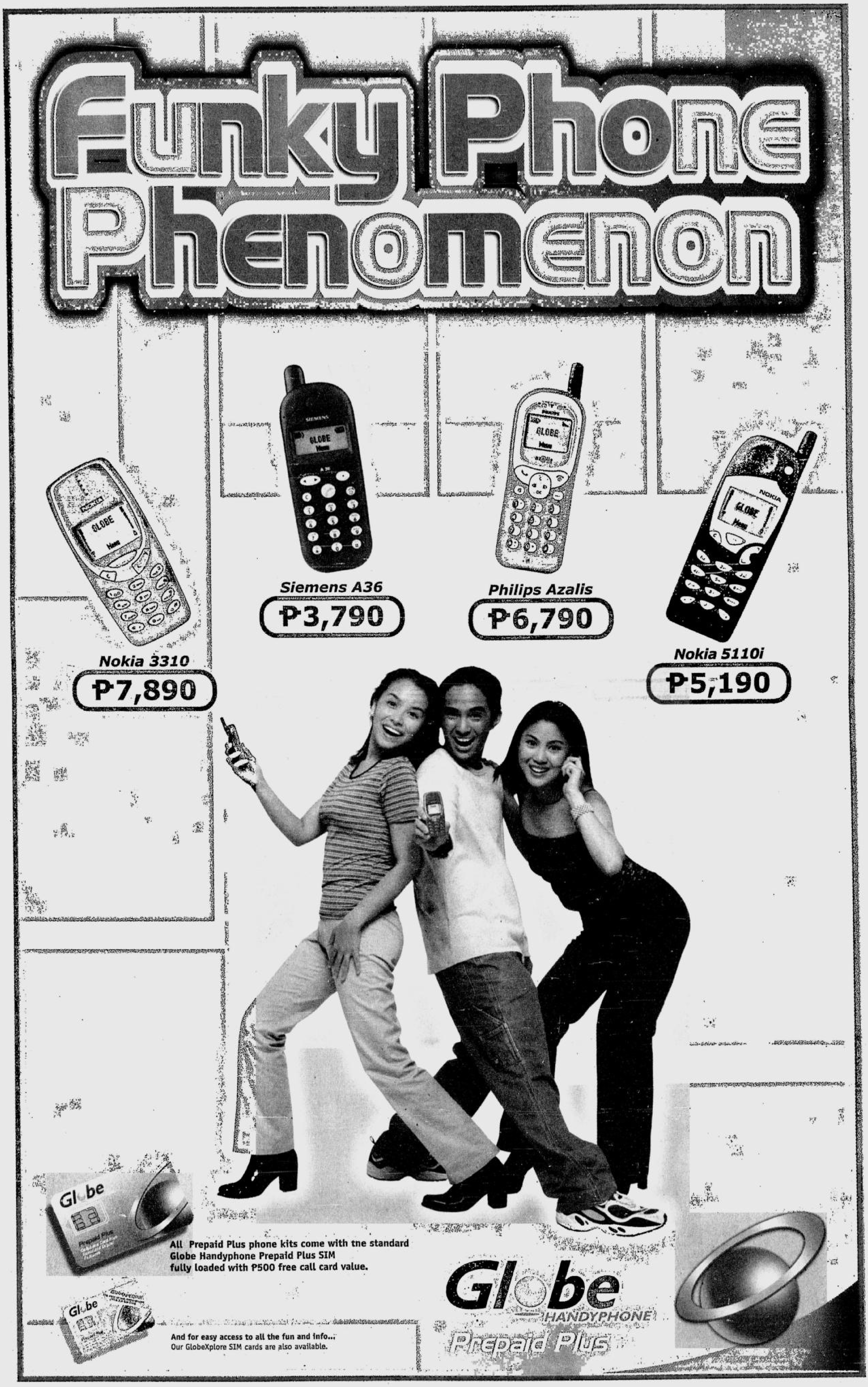

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LIFESTYLE

Dating tips from the veterans

By Ike Sulat

ACH! Valentine's is just around the corner again, conjuring images of red hearts, roses and couples out for a date.

A lot of you fellas may be having anxiety attacks about that date coming up soon, unsure of what to do or say. Take heart for even the most suave and confident creatures can crumble during a date (especially if they're going out with "the one"), so it probably won't hurt to read up on some advice—though it won't come from me.

As a man who has had modest dating opportunities, I may not be the best source for dating tips. So, I asked for some help from two friends, a grizzled gentleman and a brusque twentysomething who between themselves have had a total of 61 "serious" girlfriends.

My talks with them yielded contrasting ideas so I decided to write in full what they told me and conveniently labeled their approaches. You can take one guy's path or the other, or mix-and-match their tips like KFC chicken. Don't forget to keep your breath fresh and stop gawking at other females.

The squeaky-clean act

One of my "veteran" sources for dating etiquette and practices is Eric, a fortyish executive from Makati who seems to have been schooled in the traditional way of dating. A clean-cut and tactful gentleman, he had 28 girlfriends before his marriage, and claims to have had only one girlfriend at a time. He attributes his dating success to "sincerity, a lot of guts, a genuine interest in your date and a network of friends."

His tips:

- Faint hearts never win fair ladies. *Kung torpe ka, walang mangyayari.*
- If you really like your date, talk less and listen more.
- Be modest about yourself—don't brag about your exploits or how great a date you are. Girls hate guys who are too proud of themselves.
- If you know more about her

DATING/ p.D2

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EVERYDAY FOOD
Seafood Curry
Chicken a la King
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FEB 10, 2001 (SAT) 1:30-4:00 P2800.00
HAM MAKING
Process of curing, cooking & glazing
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FEB 12, 2001 (MON) 1:30-4:30 P1200.00
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Pineapple Macaroni Salad
Salmon Vinoise
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Italian Fish n' Chips

FEB 13, 2001 (TUE) 1:30-4:30 P900.00
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French Onion Soup
Chef's Salad
Tuna Casserole
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Minestrone
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FEB 16, 2001 (FRI) 1:30-4:30 P600.00
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Humba Cebu
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Buko Flan

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Gambas al ajillo
Pork & Beans
Chick Fried Steak
Canonigo

FEB 17, 2001 (SAT) 1:30-4:30 P 1300.00
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Paella alla Sevillana (vegetarian)
Paella con Seta y Mejillones (mussels & mushroom)
Paella Negra (w/ squid ink)
Paella al Campo (with lamb)

FEB 19, 2001 (MON) 1:30-4:30 P800.00
REGIONAL FILIPINO II
Misua con Bola y Tola
Twiced Cooked Adobo sa Puti
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Time for beginners to learn simple chiffon cake & roll.
Make chiffon cake & variations, feather like sponge cake, marble butter cake & chocolate roll

FEB 20, 2001 (TUE) 1:30-4:30 P800.00
REGIONAL FILIPINO III
Kare-kare
Mechado
Paksiw na Pata
Labanos Kilawin
Torta of Patola-Crab/Patola Shrimp with Fresh Lumpia Sauce

FEB 21, 2001 (WED) 1:30-4:30 P 900.00
JUST APPETIZERS
Beef Carpaccio Temaki
Shrimp on Toast Cylinders
Assorted Spring Rolls:
Taco, Tinapa Mango Cheese, Tuyo Tomato onion
Paella: Pinipig Crusted Tofu, Pillow Fillet & sisig, Tostadas of Tomato & Jamon Serrano

FEB 22,2001 (THUR) 8:30-11:30 P700.00
BASIC CAKE DECORATING
Learn how to make 3 icings:
Butter Cream Icing
Boiled Royal Icing
Silky Choco Frosting

FEB 22, 2001 (THUR) 1:30-4:30 P850.00
NOODLE LUST
Sotanghon Sukiyaki
Pancit Buko
Bam-I Guisado
Roast Duck Mami
Chow Mein
Fried Milk

FEB 23, 2001 (FRI) 1:30 -4:30 P1300.00
LET'S GO ITALIAN
Melanzane Fritti ala Siciliana
Pappardelle al Telefono
Pollo Alla Griglia
Manzo brassato al Triple Burro
Tiramisu

FEB 24, 2001 (FRI) 8:30 -11:30 P1300.00
FLAVORS OF SPAIN
Ensalad Mixta
Sopa de Ajo
Pescado ala Sal con Alioli
Callos al estilo "Casa Paco"
Natillas

FEB 24, 2001 (SAT) 1:30-4:30 P 1800.00
INSTITUTIONAL CLASSICS
Lobster (Prawn) Bisque
Lapu-lapu with Monk Sauce
Open Ravioli of Seafood topped with crisp steak
Blackened Mahi-mahi stuffed w/ Smoked Salmon Mild Curry
Pan Fried Duck Liver

FEB 26, 2001 (MON) 1:30-4:30 P1300.00
FUSSION
Pan Fried Milkfish, Seafood Bellies w/ guava, tomato, butter
Shrimp and Mango Samosa with Pili Pesto
Spicy Ragout of Ginger Prawns and Lemon Grass
Seafood Paella with 3 noodles

FEB 27, 2001 (TUE) 1:30-4:30 P1100.00
FUSSION II
Beef Kaldereta Lasagna
Peking Duck Pizza
Laing, Shrimp & Crab Cannelloni
Beef Teriyaki Pizza
Crepe of Laguna & Mozarella Cheese

FEB 28, 2001 (WED) 1:30-4:30 P1500.00
FUSSION III
Chicken Khallis
P
Gingered Prawns & Lemon Grass
Lamb Chops marinated with guava jelly & coffee
Ceasar's Fussion
Roast Duckling-Mango Sauce

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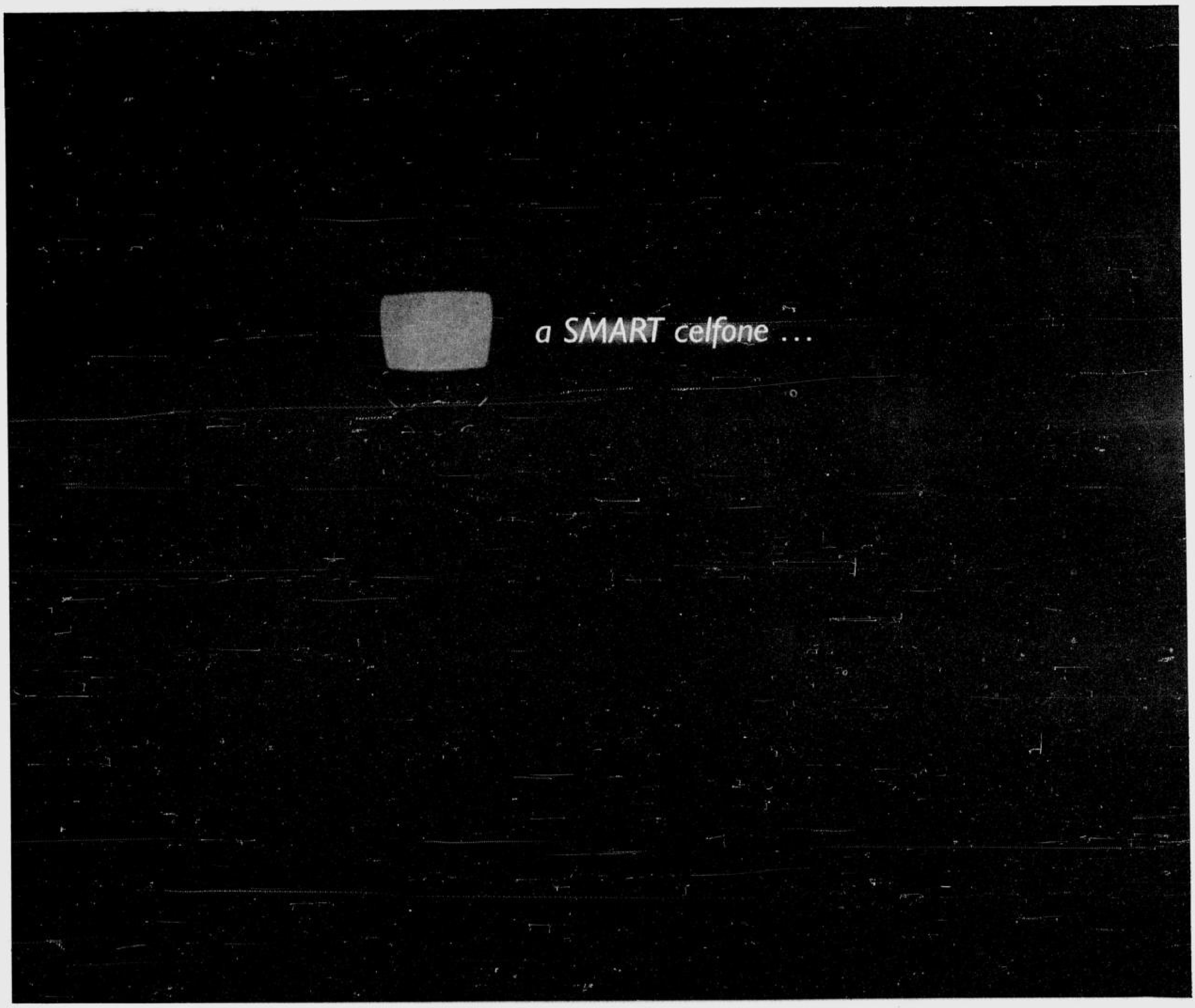


a SMART celfone ...

Movie lines that define the moment

HAVEN'T you, at some point, used a certain line from a movie? Whether we are in the throes of a new romance (a crush or a new significant other) or in the middle of a relationship that may end at the altar, movie lines never fail to define the moment.

They may be cheesy, sappy or even downright eeeww and corny. But one thing is sure, they have secured a place in our memories.

'With Honors'

Courtney (Moira Kelly): "What are you doing?"

Monty (Brendan Fraser): "I'm ending our friendship." (Then kisses her passionately.)

As Brendan Fraser's character was kissing her, I was screaming and super *kilig*. Who wouldn't? For the longest time, I was dying to use this line. But then again, my significant other never gave me the chance to say a word in edgewise and just kissed me.

'As Good As it Gets'

Melvin Udall: "You make me wanna be a better man."

Adored this movie. Who would have thought that dysfunctionality would ever look so real in fantasy movie land? And who would have thought that the actor whose eyebrows have a life of their own would be responsible for uttering one of the most real and romantic movie lines of all time?

'Notting Hill'

Anna Scott: "... I'm also a girl standing in front of a boy, asking him to love her..." (to Hugh Grant)

People will kill me when I say I cringed when I heard Julia Roberts said this. It felt so "awkward." But then again, I'm sure that's the subtext of the scene and the line. But my word is good as gold—I am never going to pray for an occasion when I will be able to use this line.

'Jerry Maguire'

Jerry Maguire: "I love you. You... complete me."

Dorothy Boyd: "Shut up. Just shut up. You had me at hello."

An informal survey shows this is the most used movie line ever. Point in fact, my significant other used this line in one of his text messages. Perfect, don't you think? "You complete me" is less than 160 characters. Just make sure you don't say, "You complete me, Minime!" instead.

'Runaway Bride'

Maggie Carpenter: "I guarantee there will be tough times. And I guarantee that at one point or another, one or both of us will want to get out. But I also guarantee that if I won't ask you to be mine, I'll regret it for the rest of my life. Because I know in my heart you are the only one for me."

MOVIE/ p.D4

Dating tips from the veterans

(From page D1)

than she does of you, you have the upper hand.

- A little kindness won't hurt. Open the door for her or pull the chair for her.
- Do not be cute or old-fashioned, but make her feel at ease by letting her know you aren't a total cad.
- Make friends with the parents. Impress them enough to trust their daughter to you.
- Don't be afraid to meet them. Even if you don't become their son-in-law, they will always have nice thoughts about you.
- Be honest.
- Appreciate or comment on what she's wearing. Girls like it when you compliment their shoes, the lowest part of the wardrobe.
- Don't be shy. Ask, ask, ask.

- Always remember: No means no. Maybe means she might think about it. Yes means go for it.

The rough approach

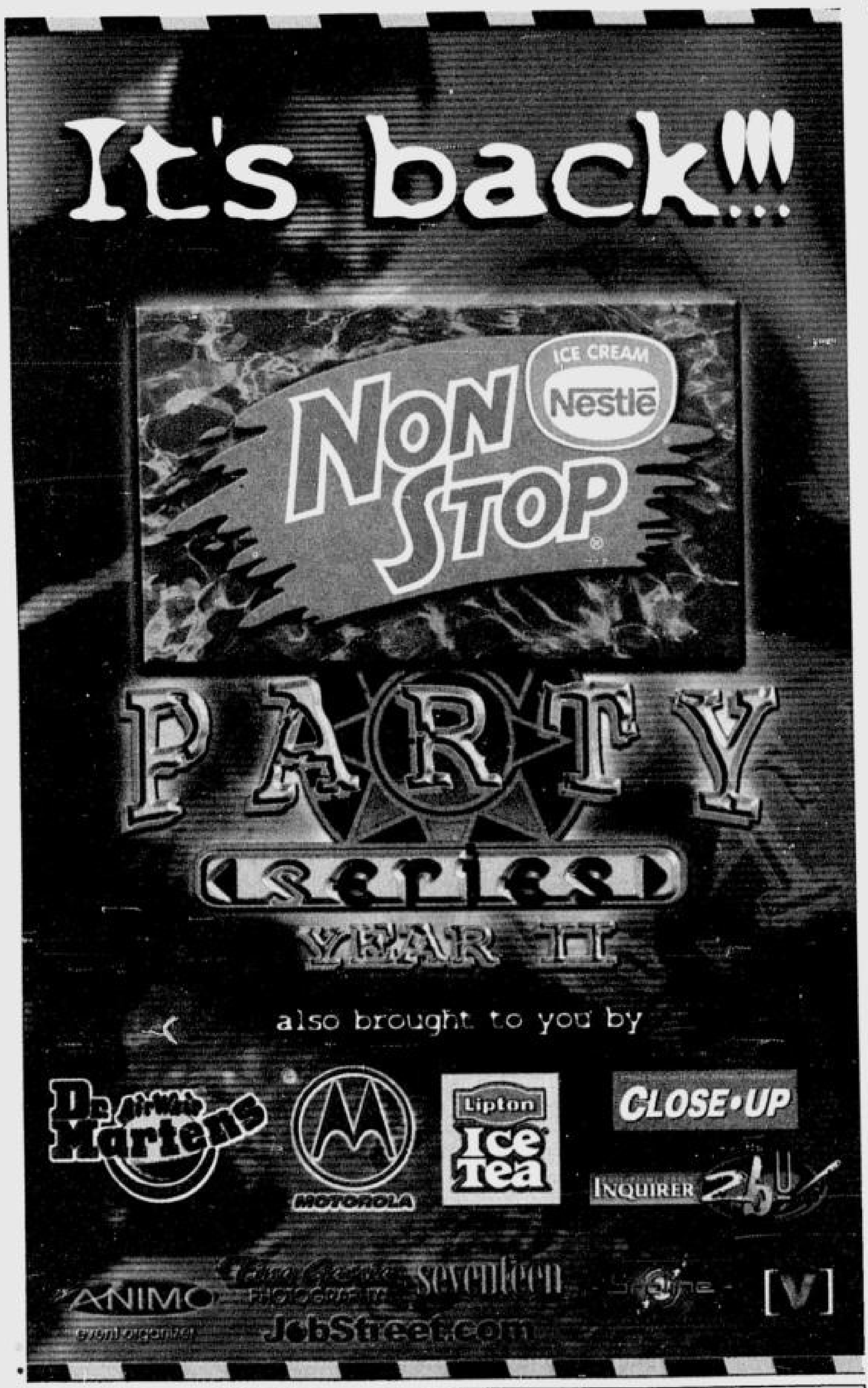
My other source is Edmond, a 25-year-old shop owner, who is more cocky and loose when it comes to going out with girls. He had four girlfriends at one time and he counts 33 of them as serious relationships, not counting one-night stands and high school sweethearts. Mon's unusual and contradictory tips focus on setting himself apart from a girl's other dates, but primarily, he says that being funny is what makes him a hit.

His tips:

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

- Be *suplado*. On first impression, I am conceited and withdrawn. I avoid talking too much, especially when we're not that close yet. This creates an aura of mystery that makes girls want to know you more.
- On a first date, say all the good things you can think of.
- Pick up your date instead of meeting somewhere.
- Crack jokes when you get to know each other. It's a good sign if the girl laughs because it means she appreciates your joke and feels comfortable with you.
- Practice reverse psychology. Do and say things a girl doesn't expect—it makes her feel she's with a different, special kind of person.
- Show your true self.
- Make the date last as long as possible. After a typical dinner and movie, go for some live music and drinks. Go beyond her curfew hours, but don't force her if she says no.
- Culture shock helps. Go to a place she's never been before and do things she hasn't done before. This will set you apart from other guys and will make the occasion more memorable for her.
- Impress her. Go to a hip place where everyone knows you—the DJs, the bands, the waiters. If you get in a club without having to pay entrance fee and get free drinks, you're cool.
- Get a car and bring cash. Getting a cab can be a drag and so is running out of dough.

E-mail the author at ikesulat@yahoo.com



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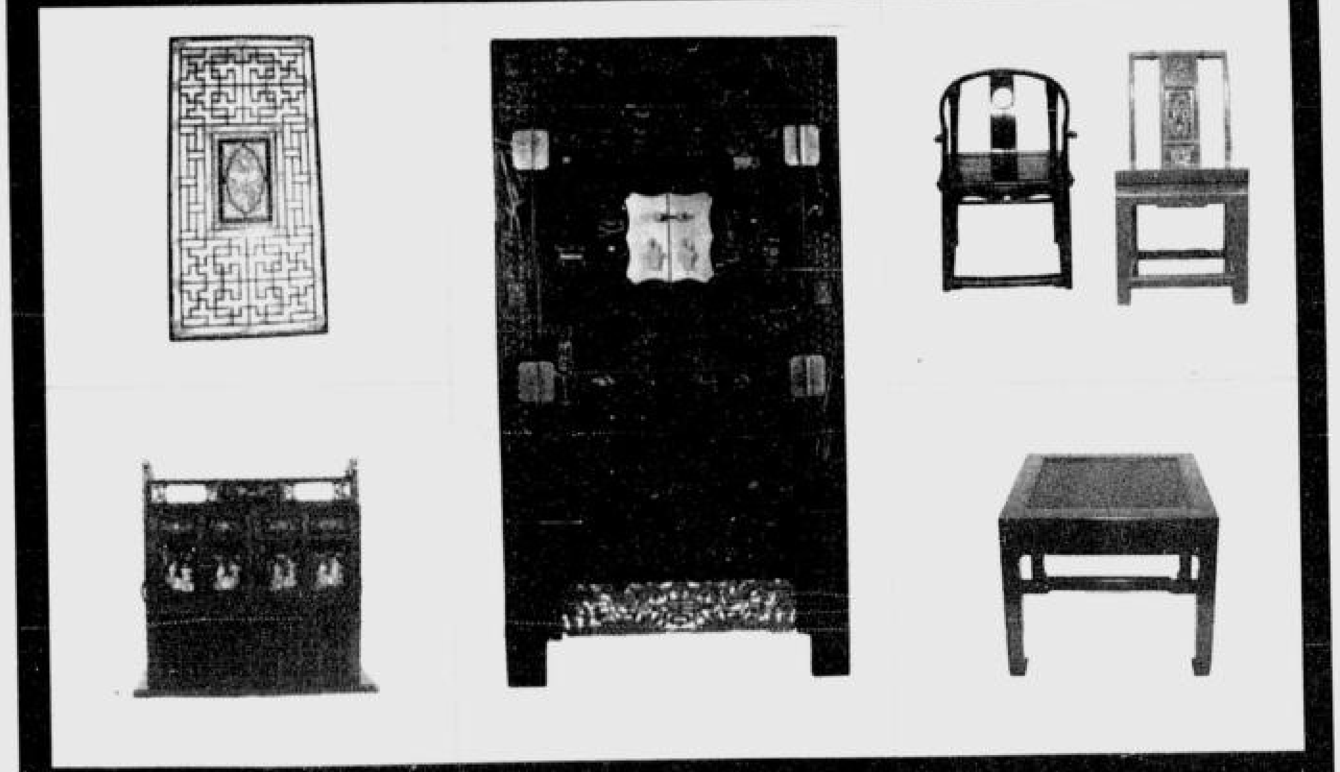

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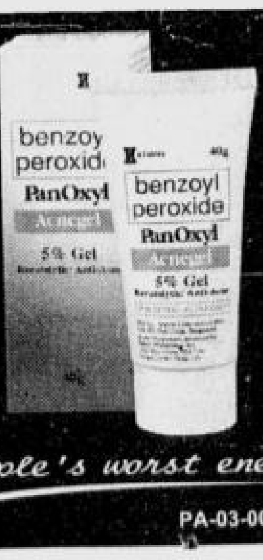

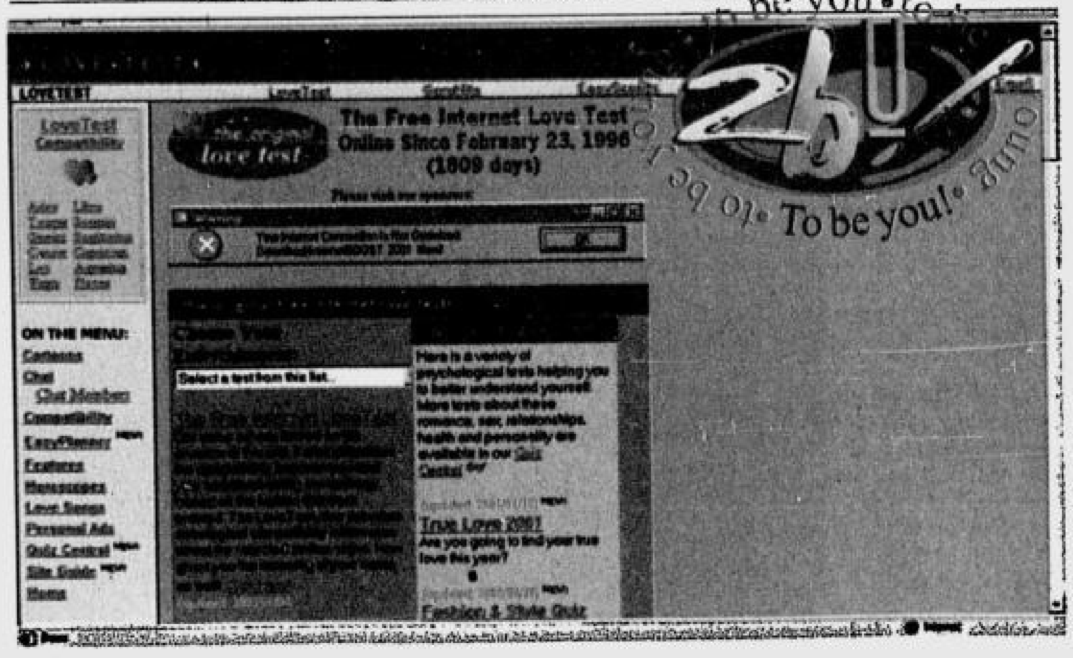

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WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

Testing love compatibility

By WALTER ANG

ON THE DAY of hearts, who wouldn't want to sit beside their one true love, holding hands by the flicker of candlelight, whispering sweet nothings to each other? Of course, in this cyber age, it's not an uncommon sight to have couples sitting by the glow of a computer monitor instead of aromatherapy candles.

Of course, nothing beats a romantic dinner with a string quartet playing music that swells the heart. But before you rush off to the nearest restaurant, just for the heck of it, surf lovetest.com to, what else, test your love. Take the "original love test." One of the site's tests among many others, where you'll be asked to answer 40 or so questions such as is your significant other taller than you, if you are well acquainted with his/her parents, if you know your lovey dovey's friends, and so on.

Afterward, with the click of your mouse, this website will compute your love compatibility based on numerology, astrology and only heaven knows what else they can use. So if you're confident about your love and strong enough to stand against the odds, then you can surely hack the love test. Other tests include "How vain are you?" and "Do you believe in love at first sight?"

Aside from the tests, the site dishes out the usual staple of chatrooms, forums and free e-mail. It also has a cartoons page, and, of course, for the romantic, music-loving Pinoy, what love site would be complete without a link to love songs? You can check out titles and lyrics to immortal classics as well as the latest pop acts that convey your truest, strongest feelings.

Fun, flirty and sexy

CASUAL fashion and fresh choreography characterized the fashion show presented by Preview magazine during Female Force, a three-day women's expo held at the activity center of Glorietta. The event was organized by Summit Publishing and Summit Interactive.

The Preview fashion show opened with a bang as female models jutted down the runway, wearing jeans and denim jackets from Levi's. Very evident was the absence of tank tops in the models' ensemble, giving the message that the mood of the show was fun, flirty and sexy.

Spaghetti-strapped dresses in cotton and linen from Benetton, accented with long necklaces were next. More casual clothes were featured as male models strutted in slacks, jeans, T-shirts and short-sleeved polo shirts from Mossimo, Hang Ten and ladies sashayed in cotton blouses, and Kline skirts and shift dresses from Bayo.

The lights dimmed dramatically in time to showcase club wear from Miss Sixty, Guess and Energie. Ruffled skirts and dresses in pastel hues from Urban & Co., and YRYS (Your Rules, Your Style) provided a romantic respite. Capping the fashion show were Oriental-inspired shirts and jeans from Lee. Shoe Salon provided the footwear for both male and female models.

Fashion show director Peter Serrano required the models to act, too. There was a segment that implied a romantic story where two girls tried to get the attention of the same boy. Another portion titled "Mirror image" had similar-looking female models styled and dressed identically, moving in synchronized fashion. Music from movies "Trainspotting" and "The Beach" provided the evening's soundtrack.

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Movie lines that define the moment

(From page D2)

(To Ike Graham, played by Richard Gere)

Another potential hit that, most likely, will be uttered by sweethearts. Gosh, according to the grapevine, this line is usually "borrowed" by those who give a jewelry box (with a nice glistening rock inside).

'Phenomenon'

George Malley: "Will you love me for the rest of my life?"

Lace Pennamin: "No, I will love you for the rest of mine."

Blue Arden, one of our resident anonymous writers, says this line was so sweet it almost made him cry. Our lead correspondent could not help but concur. Honestly, if someone uses this line on me, I think I'll puke. It's just too cheesy and I'm lactose-intolerant.

'My Best Friend's Wedding'

Michael: "If you love someone, you say it, say it right then and there, out loud, otherwise the moment just passes you by." (To Julianne while riding on the barge, under the bridge)

> Be cheesy or sappy, but try not to get too crazy this Valentine

My tears flowed incessantly until about 10 scenes after this. This is love's version of "Carpe Diem." How many of us have let the "moment" pass us by? Let this coming Feb.14 not be one of those moments.

Julianne: "... Marry me... love me... let me make you happy..." (To Michael by the gazebo)

No, no, no! I shouted at the movie screen when Julia Roberts said this line. To be honest, I cried at this scene. Out of sheer embarrassment. Eeeks *talaga*!

'10 Things I Hate about You'

"I hate the way you talk to me.

I hate the way you talk to me and the way you cut your hair.

I hate the way you drive my car.

I hate it when you stare.

I hate your big dumb combat boots

And the way you read my mind.

I hate you so much it makes me sick—

It even makes me rhyme.

I hate the way you're always right.

I hate it when you lie.

I hate it when you make me laugh—even worse when you make me cry.

I hate it that you're not around

And the fact that you didn't call.

But mostly I hate the way

I don't hate you—

Not even close, not even a little bit, not any at all."

These lines, done in Shakespearean iambic pentameter, have been mass e-mailed and forwarded by many. Many surely empathized with "heinous bitch" Katarina Stratford's (played by the immensely talented Julia Stiles) as her face crumbles and breaks toward the end of the monologue. Perfect for those whose significant others are what could be described as an "acquired taste."

'The End of the Affair'

"Love does not end when we don't see each other." (Sara Miles)

By far, the most effective of all. Graham Greene surely knows the secret to good communication. Brevity. This line is what they call "*tagos sa buto*."

'Chasing Amy'

Alyssa: "Why are we stopping?"

Holden: "Because I can't take this."

Alyssa: "Can't take what?"

Holden: "I love you."

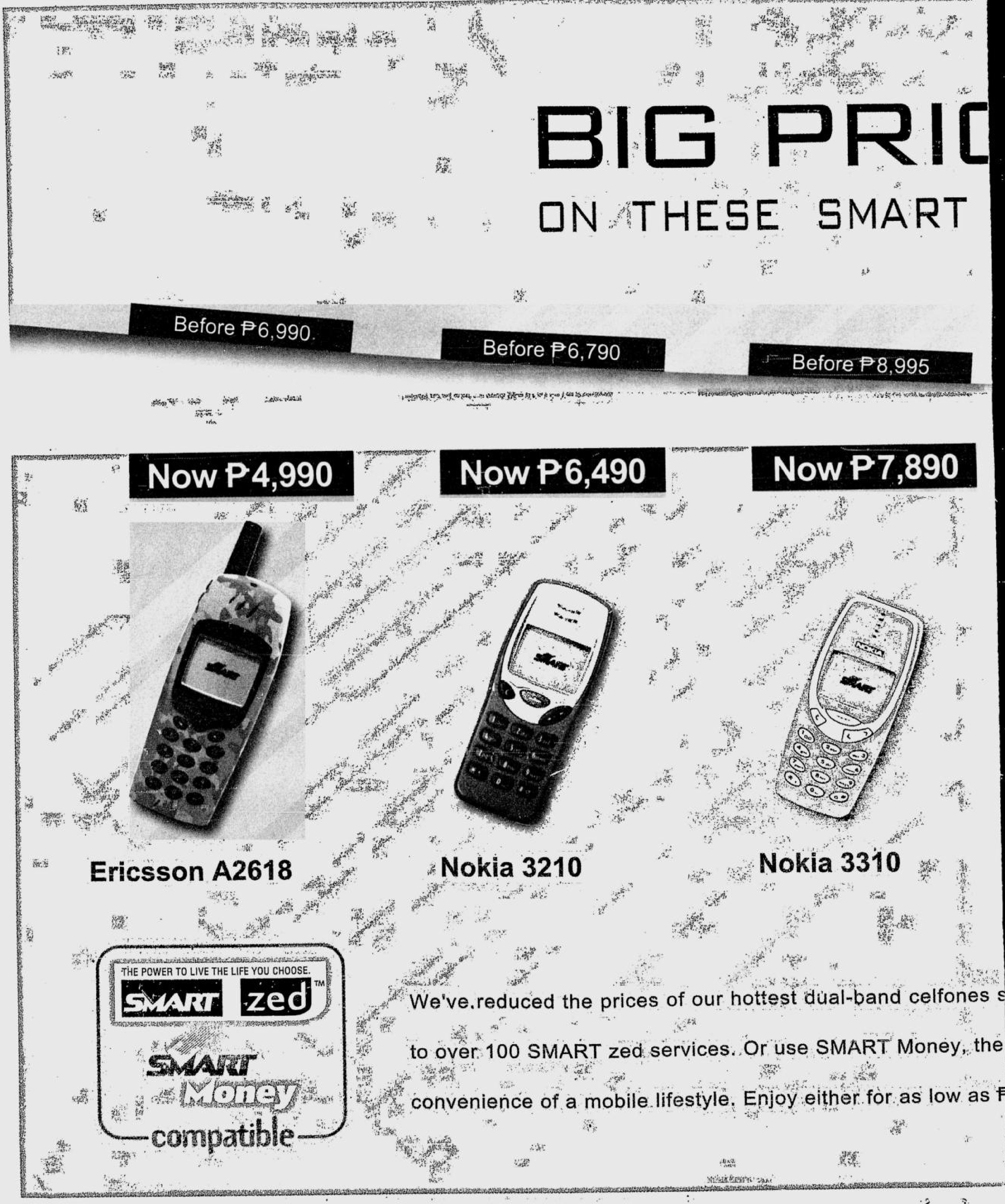
Alyssa: "You love me?"

Holden: "I love you. And not in a friendly way, although I think we're great friends. And not in a misplaced affection, puppy-dog way, although I'm sure that's what you'll call it. And it's not because you're unattainable. I love you. Very simple, very truly. You're the epitome of every attribute and quality I've ever looked for in another person. I know you think of me as just a friend, and that crossing that line is the farthest thing from an option you'd ever consider. But I had to say it. I can't take it anymore. I can't stand next to you without wanting to hold you. I can't look into your eyes without feeling that longing you only read about in trashy romance novels. I can't talk to you without wanting to express my love for everything you are. I know this will probably queer our friendship—no pun intended—but I had to say it, because I've never felt this before, and I like who I am because of it. And if bringing it to light means we can't hang out anymore, then that hurts me. But I couldn't allow another day to go by without getting it out there, regardless of the outcome, which by the look on your face is to be the inevitable shootdown. And I'll accept that. But I know some part of you is hesitating for a moment, and if there is a moment of hesitation, that means you feel something, too. All I ask is that you not dismiss that—at least for 10 seconds—and try to dwell in it. Alyssa, there isn't another soul on this ******* planet who's ever made me half the person I am when I'm with you, and I would risk this friendship for the chance to take it to the next plateau. Because it's there between you and me. You can't deny that. And even if we never speak again after tonight, please know that I'm forever changed because of who you are and what you've meant to me, which—while I do appreciate it—I'd never need a painting of birds bought at a diner to remind me of." (Holden Mcneil is played by Ben Affleck and Alyssa is played by Joey Lauren Adams)

What can I say? I'm speechless.

Jules Alcantara

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com



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2BU! RECOMMENDS

In love but broke? Be creative

By Pamela Angela Salomon Pastor

LET'S face it. Not everyone can afford a major shopping spree for their loved ones this Valentine. If that diamond ring has to wait and you can't afford a bouquet of long-stemmed roses this year, or a five-course meal at an Italian resto, fret not. 2bU! will help you make this special day memorable. Sure, some suggestions are a tad bit sappy. But this is one time of the year when you have every excuse to be mushy. Give these ideas a shot and soon, your honey will be gushing about your sweetness and creativity.

- **A daily dose of loving.** Head off to the nearest drugstore and buy empty capsules (I like the transparent ones best.) Cut strips of colored paper and write a sweet note on each one. Roll them up, put one note inside each capsule and put the capsules in a bottle. You can find nice bottles with cork covers at Landmark and other crafts stores. Then, tell your sweetie to "take" one capsule every day.

- **Give him/her a gastronomic adventure.** Grab grandma's trusty old recipe book and get messy in the kitchen. Whip up your loved one's favorite dish. You may also try something you've seen in cooking shows. Fix up your dining table—flowers, candles, the works. Play music that would set the mood. (No Kenny G, please. Somehow, disgusting local flicks have made his songs too sleazy to handle.) And, please, make sure you serve something edible. You want to please, not kill.

- **Send him/her on a scavenger hunt.** Use the entire city. Leave clues in places that have played a big part in your relationship. You may even leave a small token in each place—a flower, a stuffed toy or something that would remind her of you and everything you've shared. Then, prepare something special at the end of the hunt. You could be waiting for her somewhere for dinner, or a picnic or lead her back to her room which you've decorated with balloons. (Ask for her mom's help.)

- **Be your honey's DJ.** What song was playing on the radio when you first kissed? Which song reminds you of him? Compile all your special tunes in one album (use a cassette tape or CD, if you have money to burn). Create a funky cover and voila! You've got a perfect Valentine's gift.

- **Make a love journal.** Get an empty book—a sturdy, hardbound notebook with thick pages will do and fill it with your memories.—your love story, excerpts from your diary, poems, song lyrics—there's an endless list of things you can put. You may also use pictures, neoprints, concert and movie tickets, cutouts from magazines and your other mementos. This book is something you guys can keep—and even show your kids one day.

- **Do it the hi-tech way.** If you think handwritten, perfumed love letters are so last generation, go online. With thousands of sites offering free Web space, you're sure to find a love nest that would be perfect for you. You may try Geocities (www.geocities. com), Gurlpages (www.gurlpages. com) or Xoom (www.xoom.com). Arm yourself with the basics of html (Go to www.htmlprimer.com, hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/teachingtool/ or www.davesite.com/webstation/html/ for a crash course.) and make a webpage for your sweetie. (Try) An online photo album, a collection of poems—get creative. There's no limit to the possibilities. Don't sign your page up in search engines, though. I think the rest of the online community would rather that you keep the mush between the two of you.

- **Do it your way.** If you're an artist, draw something for her. If you have a flair for words, write her a poem or a story. If you're a musician, play for her—and tape it, too, so she'll have something to listen to when she misses you.

- **Get crazy with coupons.** Make a coupon booklet for him, entitling him to different special treatments from you—a free massage, car wash, one long kiss, a home-cooked dinner. Get creative. Get crazy.

- **Bring back slavery.** She's been sooo good to you. For one day, spoil her silly. Baby her, make her feel like a princess, be her slave—what's 24 hours, anyway? If you're gonna say that this is nothing new to you, and that you do it every day, let me pat you on the back. Your lady is very lucky.

You may use these tips on their own, or combine them to make your surprise even more spectacular. Keep in mind that you don't need moolah to make your Valentine's Day happy, even if the rest of this materialistic world tries to convince you otherwise.

E-mail the author at pammy-@exchange.ph.

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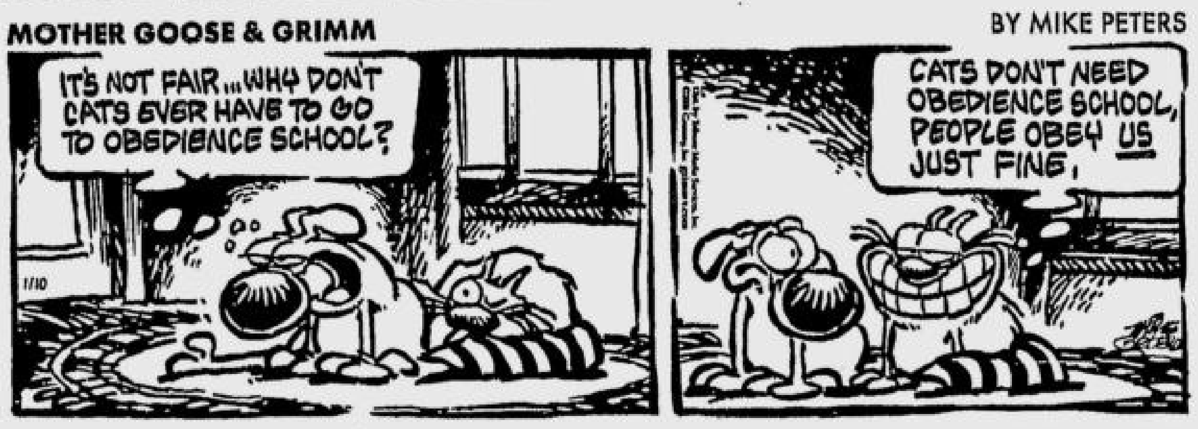
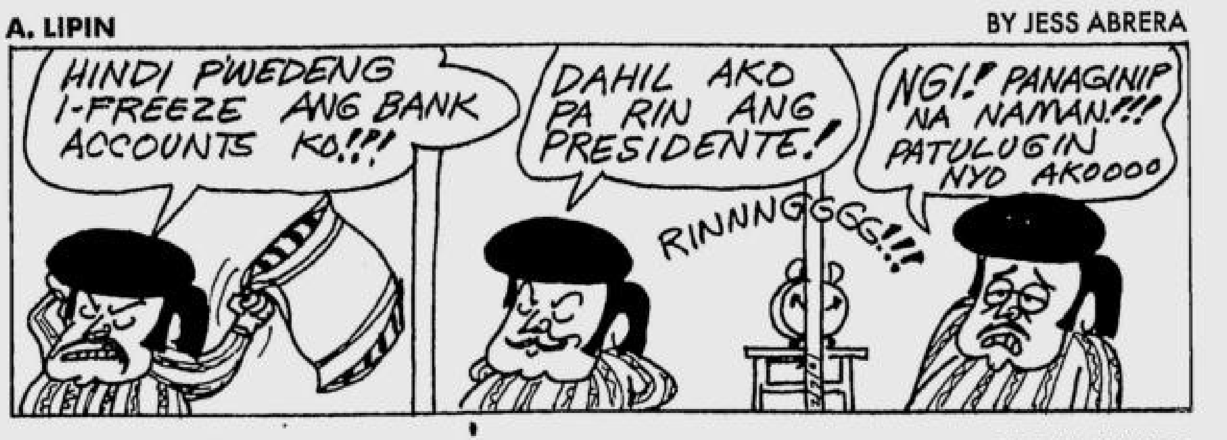

IT'S NOT FAIR...WHY DON'T CATS EVER HAVE TO GO TO OBEDIENCE SCHOOL?
CATS DON'T NEED OBEDIENCE SCHOOL, PEOPLE OBEY US JUST FINE.
1/10

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA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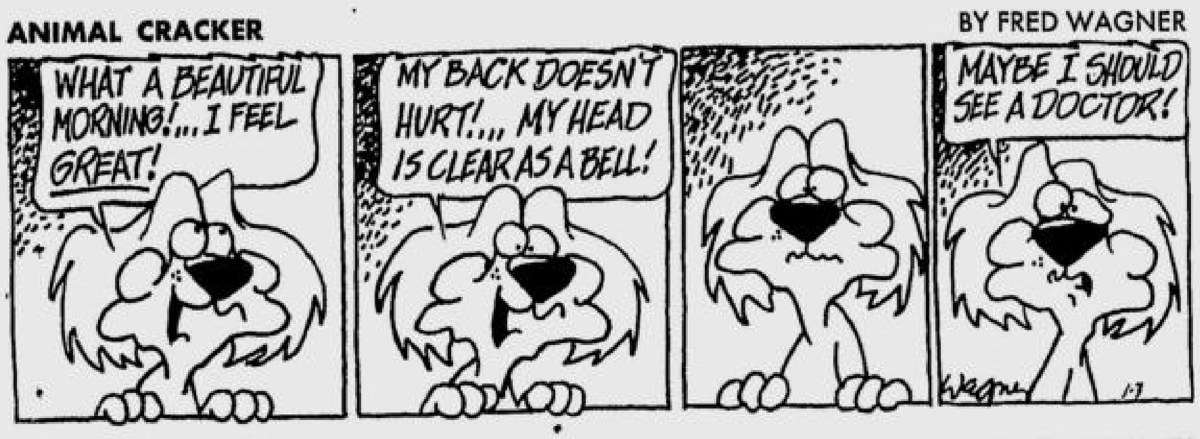
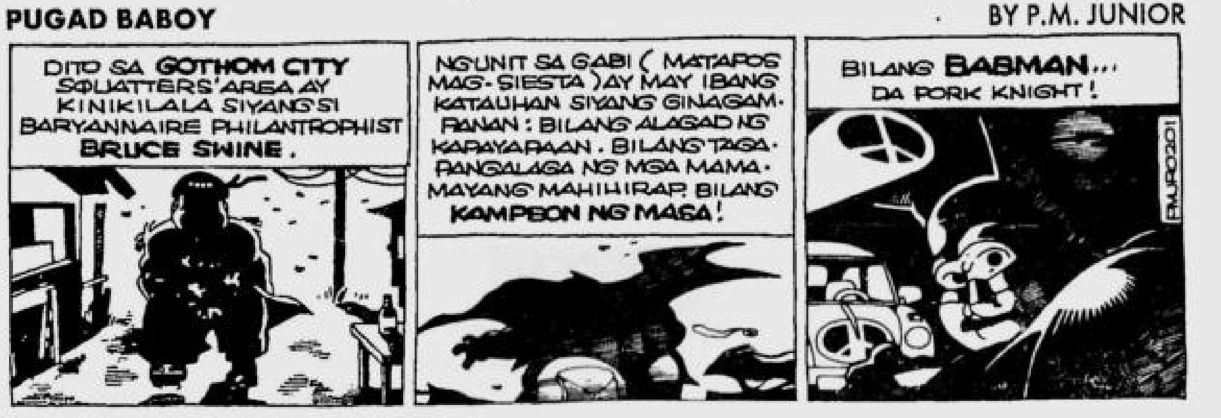
DAHIL AKO PA RIN ANG PRESIDENTE!
RINNNGGGG!!!
NGI! PANAGINIP NA NAMAN!?! PATULUGIN NYO AKOOOO

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!...I FEEL GREAT!
MY BACK DOESN'T HURT!... MY HEAD IS CLEAR AS A BELL!
MAYBE I SHOULD SEE A DOCTOR!
Wagner 1-7

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR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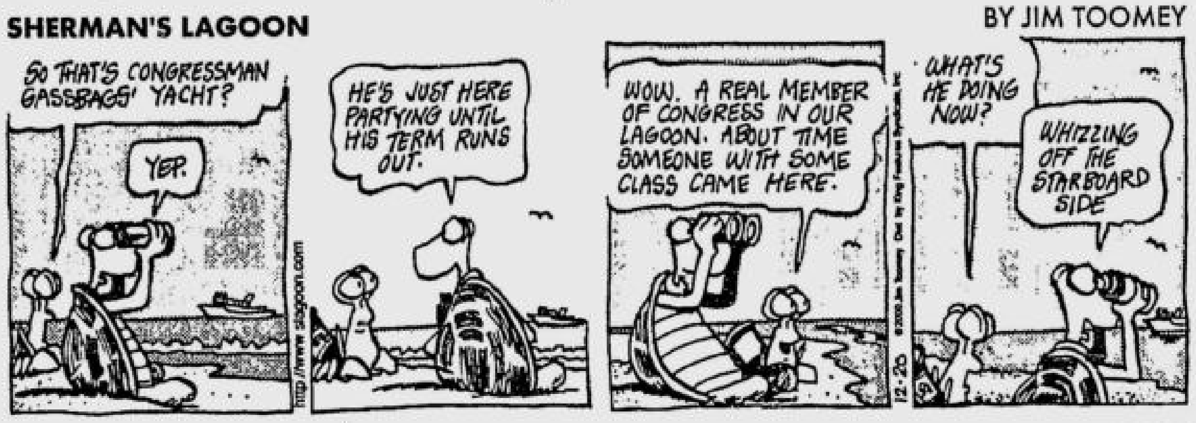
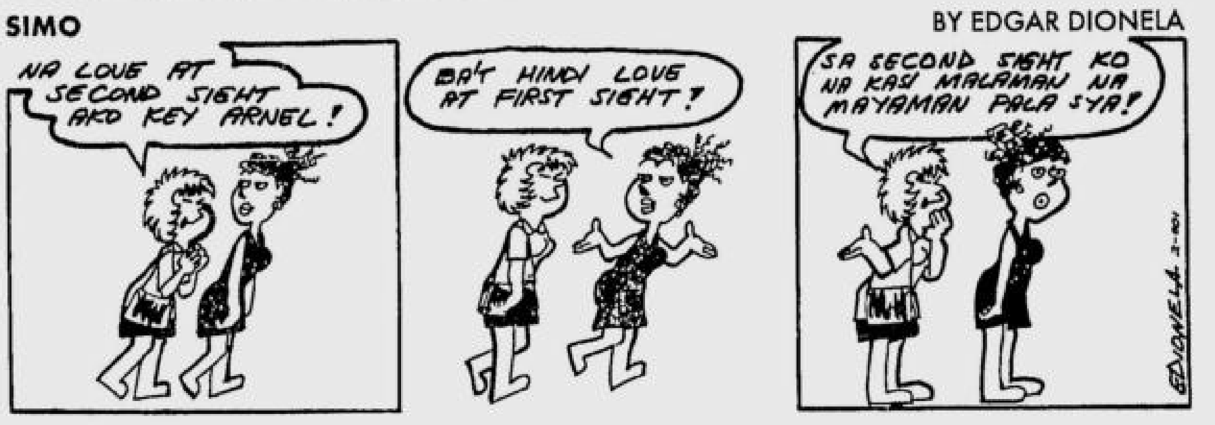
NGUNIT SA GABI (MATAPOS MAG-SIESTA) AY MAY IBANG KATAUHAN SIYANG GINAGAMPANAN: BILANG ALAGAD NG KAPAYAPAAN. BILANG TAGAPANGALAGA NG MGA MAMAMAYANG MAHIHIRAP. BILANG KAMPEON NG MASA!
BILANG BABMAN... DA PORK KNIGHT!
PMJR0201

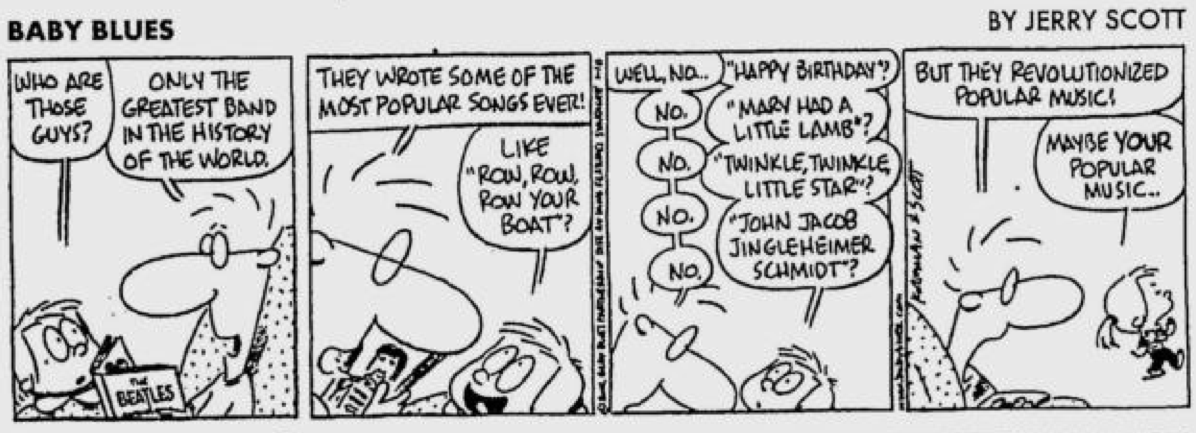
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


SO THAT'S CONGRESSMAN GASSBAGS' YACHT?
YEP.
HE'S JUST HERE PARTYING UNTIL HIS TERM RUNS OUT.
WOW. A REAL MEMBER OF CONGRESS IN OUR LAGOON. ABOUT TIME SOMEONE WITH SOME CLASS CAME HERE.
WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?
WHIZZING OFF THE STARBOARD SIDE
http://www.slagoon.com
12-20

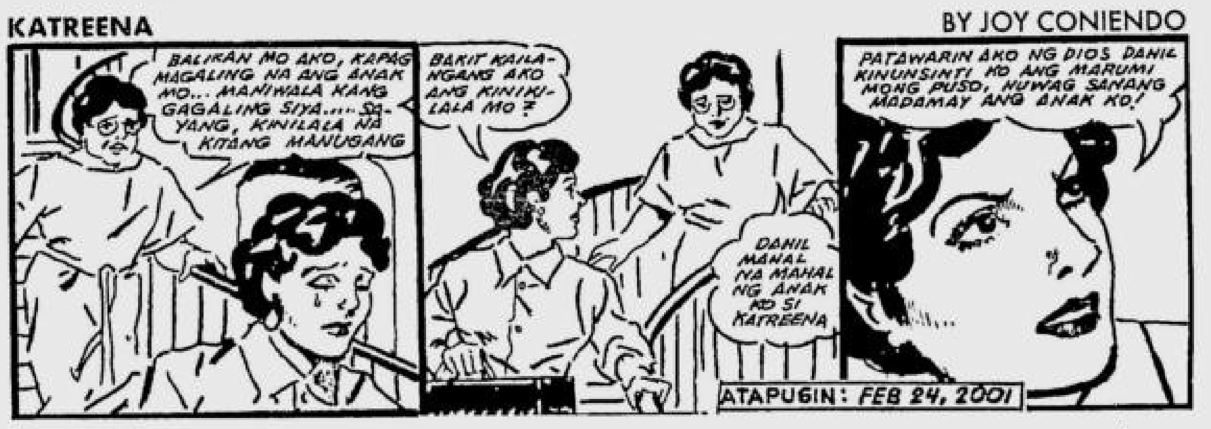
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


NA LOVE AT SECOND SIGHT AKO KEY ARNEL!
BA'T HINDI LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?
SA SECOND SIGHT KO NA KASI MALAMAN NA MAYAMAN PALA SYA!
EDIONELA

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHO ARE THOSE GUYS?
ONLY THE GREATEST BAND IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.
THE BEATLES
THEY WROTE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR SONGS EVER!
LIKE "ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR BOAT"?
WELL, NO..
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY"?
NO.
"MARY HAD A LITTLE LAMB"?
NO.
"TWINKLE, TWINKLE, LITTLE STAR"?
NO.
"JOHN JACOB JINGLEHEIMER SCHMIDT"?
NO.
BUT THEY REVOLUTIONIZED POPULAR MUSIC!
MAYBE YOUR POPULAR MUSIC..

KATREENA BY JOY CONIENDO


BALIKAN MO AKO, KAPAG MAGALING NA ANG ANAK MO... MANIWALA KANG GAGALING SIYA...-- SAYANG, KINILALA NA KITANG MANUGANG
BAKIT KAILANGANG AKO ANG KINIKILALA MO?
DAHIL MAHAL NA MAHAL NG ANAK KO SI KATREENA
PATAWARIN AKO NG DIOS DAHIL KINUNSINTI KO ANG MARUMI MONG PUSO, HUWAG SANANG MADAMAY ANG ANAK KO!
ATAPUSIN: FEB 24, 2001

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Spader, David Bryan, Garth Brooks, Miguel Ferrer, Gay Talese, Chris Rock, Tina Majorino, Ashton Kutcher

Happy Birthday: You are up for plenty of change this year in the romance department. It is a "make it or break it" year that should leave you feeling content. Your ability to communicate will help you solve any problems that have plagued your personal life, making this a great year to get back on track. Your numbers: 10, 16, 22, 26, 31, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your confidence is back, and you're ready to face the world. Get out with friends, meet new people, and take care of your own needs. Competitive activities will be stimulating.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You're better off getting out of the line of fire at home. Family members are angry, and you'll bear the brunt of it if you stick around. Make sure you get your chores done first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will enjoy traveling and visiting friends or relatives. Family outings will be educational. You will not accomplish much if you try to work at home or at the office.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You're in the mood to make money, but don't attempt a risk-taking venture that is liable to leave you the short end of the stick. Children will cost too much if you aren't able to say no.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Try to stay at home with your mate today. You need to spend some time together if you want this relationship to stabilize. Insecurities have caused a lack of trust.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Remember that secret affairs lead to devastating circumstances. Listen to a good friend who is truly looking out for your best interests. Gossip will cause problems for you at work.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make major improvements if you set your mind to it. Someone you live with appears to be confused. Try to help without making waves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your personal and professional responsibilities will clash if you have taken on too much. You need to do a little self-re-evaluation and make a concerted effort to change if necessary.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Contact with cultural or educational institutions will be rewarding and informative. Seminars, lectures or travel will not be a waste of time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will need to make some time available for your parents or grandparents. They may need your help with financial or legal matters. Your time and patience will be rewarded.

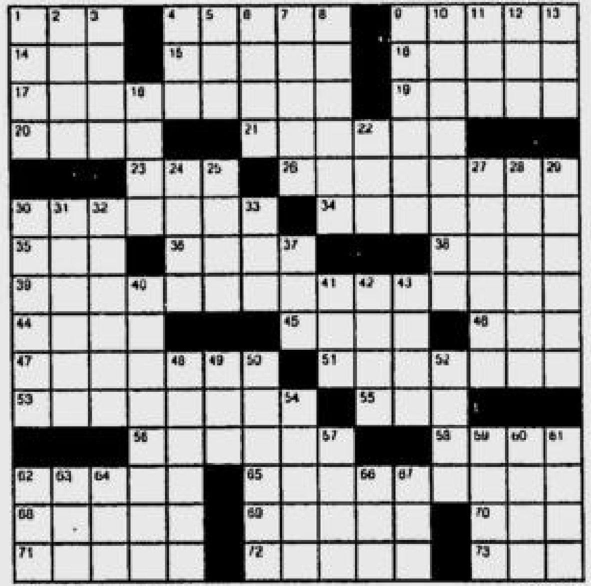
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be jealous if your mate has been flirtatious. Try to keep your cool. You may want to reconsider your personal intentions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let colleagues hold you back. Do your work promptly. Don't wait around for help. You can gain additional insight if you pick up some literature that deals with your chosen field. Keep up with the times, and you'll be the one to advance.

Birthday Baby: You'll turn heads and be the focus of attention throughout your life. You have what it takes to set trends and lead any group you become involved in. You are a person of action with a strong sense of justice.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Willy A. Wiseman
New York, NY
12/25/00

ACROSS
1 Downswing
4 Lady's address
9 School for Sartre
14 Manipulate
15 Teheran man
16 Detection device
17 Today
19 Generally recognized
20 Sacred song
21 Outdoor meal
23 Crafty
26 Irish clover
30 With 39A, event happening today
34 One-celled organisms
35 Afore
36 Hebrides island
38 Become weary
39 See 30A
44 Homeless child
45 Okinawa port
46 O.T. book
47 Tangle up
51 Event happening tonight
53 Greasy spoons
55 Japanese volcano
56 Word with block or failure
58 Progress like The Blob
62 Traveling tribe
65 Tomorrow
68 Saudis and Omanis
69 Succumb to time and tide
70 Single
71 Hereditary units
72 Made over
73 Blushing

DOWN
1 The like
2 Pallid
3 Pathogenic microorganism
4 Wrong: pref.
5 Creative skill
6 Somewhat wet
7 Diarist Nin
8 Violinist Elman
9 Inuit
10 Substantial
11 John's Yoko
12 Jurisprudence
13 Sea eagle
18 Part of VMI
22 '60s war zone, casually
24 Enunciation problem
25 Tibetan oxen
27 San Luis __, CA
28 Tenor Enrico
29 Wynn of "Dr. Strangelove"
30 Comic Herman
31 Elixirs
32 Put back on the market
33 Caustic substance
37 Long, long time
40 Should it come to that
41 Enthusiast
42 Train with a name?
43 Fumbles for words
48 "Gunsmoke" star
49 Put in the fix
50 "Jailhouse Rock" lyricist
52 Synthesizer maker
54 REM sound?
57 Pentateuch bk.
59 Redolence
60 Writer Grey
61 Checked out
62 Crone
63 Magnetite or hematite
64 Managed
66 A mean Amin
67 Actor Beatty

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	D	A	M	S	R	I	B	■	S	P	A	W	N	S
S	O	L	I	T	U	D	E	■	C	O	M	E	U	P
S	U	I	T	A	B	L	E	■	R	E	M	A	I	L
E	B	B	■	L	Y	E	■	R	E	M	O	R	S	E
S	L	I	C	E	D	■	S	E	W	S	■	I	A	N
S	E	S	A	M	E	■	E	D	S	■	M	E	N	D
■	■	■	C	A	E	S	A	R	■	D	I	S	C	O
R	A	I	T	T	■	U	S	E	■	E	N	T	E	R
E	N	S	U	E	■	S	O	W	H	A	T	■	■	■
E	G	O	S	■	W	A	N	■	O	D	E	S	S	A
L	E	T	■	P	U	N	S	■	B	E	R	E	T	S
E	L	O	P	E	R	S	■	J	O	N	■	M	A	T
D	I	N	E	R	S	■	M	A	K	E	U	P	T	O
I	C	I	E	S	T	■	O	V	E	R	S	E	E	R
N	A	C	R	E	S	■	M	A	N	S	A	R	D	S

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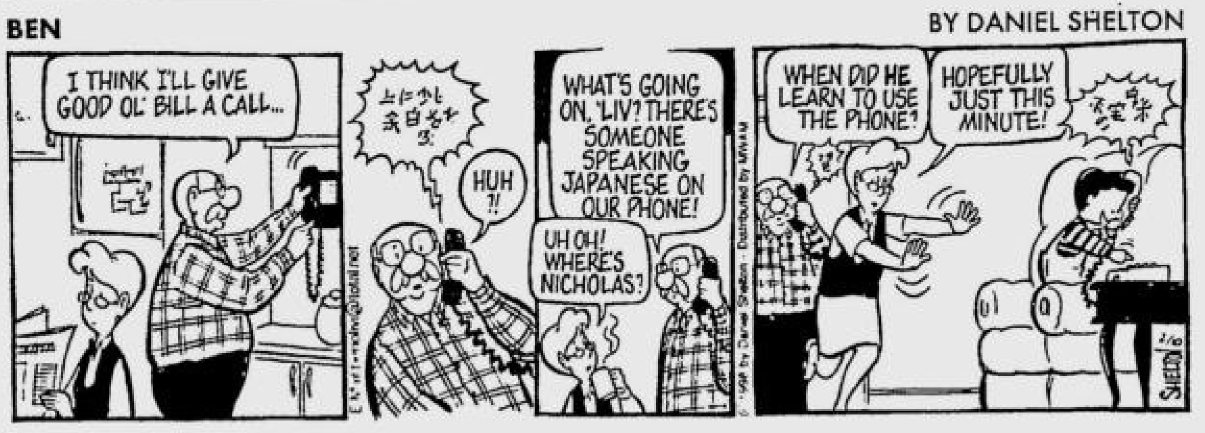
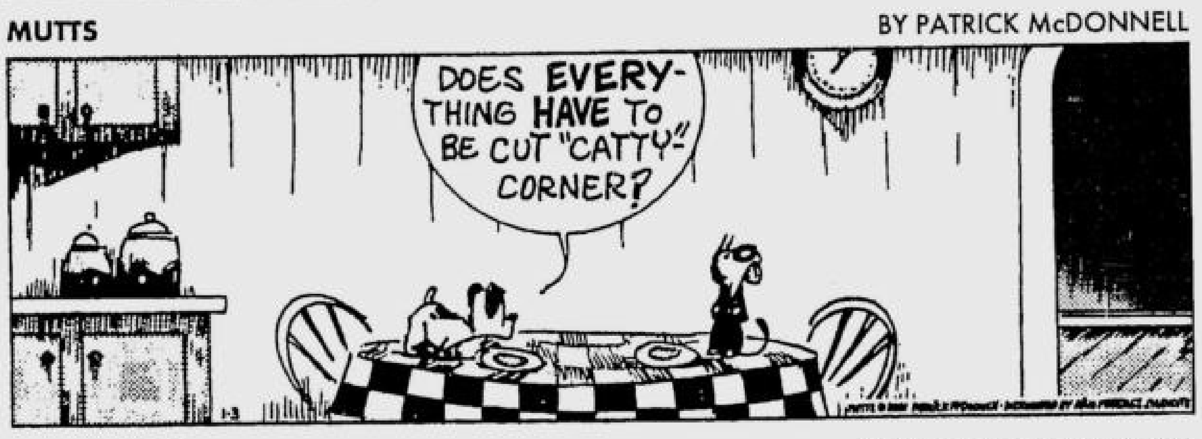
12/26/00

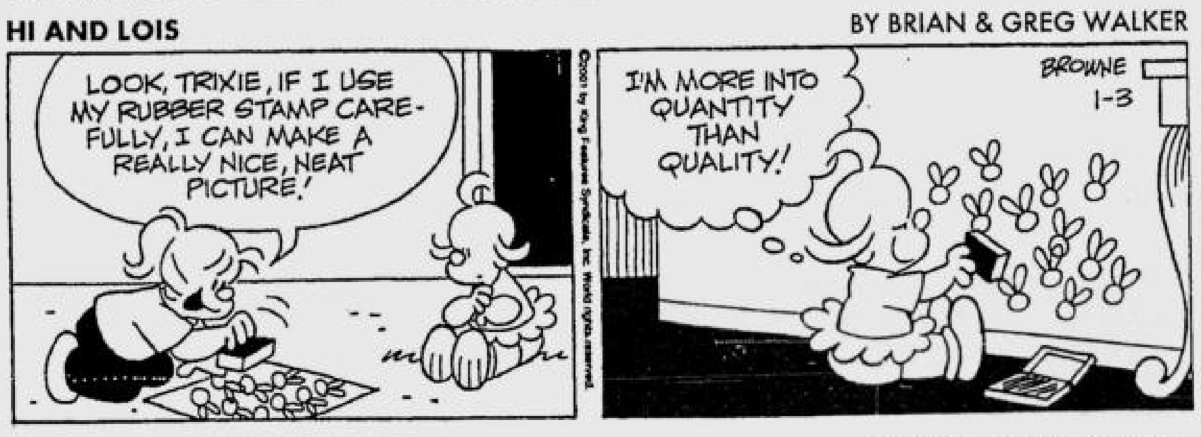
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I THINK I'LL GIVE GOOD OL' BILL A CALL...
HUH ?!
WHAT'S GOING ON, 'LIV? THERE'S SOMEONE SPEAKING JAPANESE ON OUR PHONE!
UH OH! WHERE'S NICHOLAS?
WHEN DID HE LEARN TO USE THE PHONE?
HOPEFULLY JUST THIS MINUTE!
SHELTON 2/6

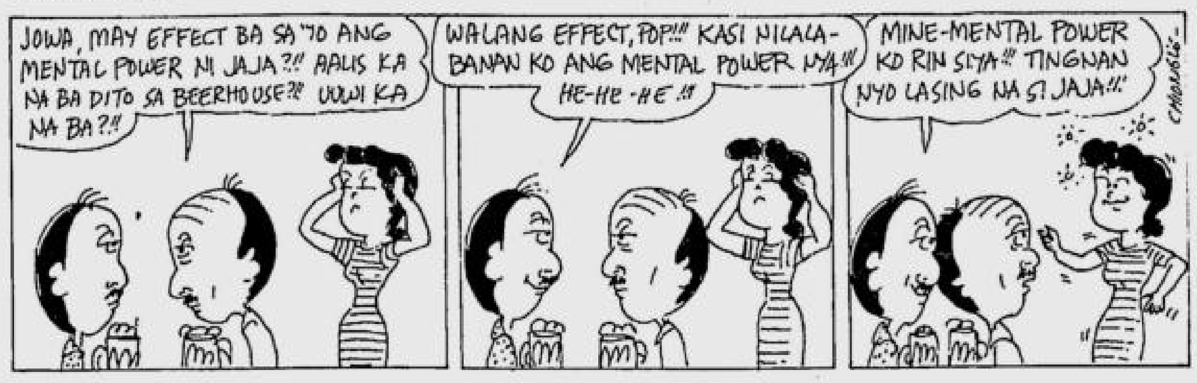
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


DOES EVERYTHING HAVE TO BE CUT "CATTY" CORNER?
1-3

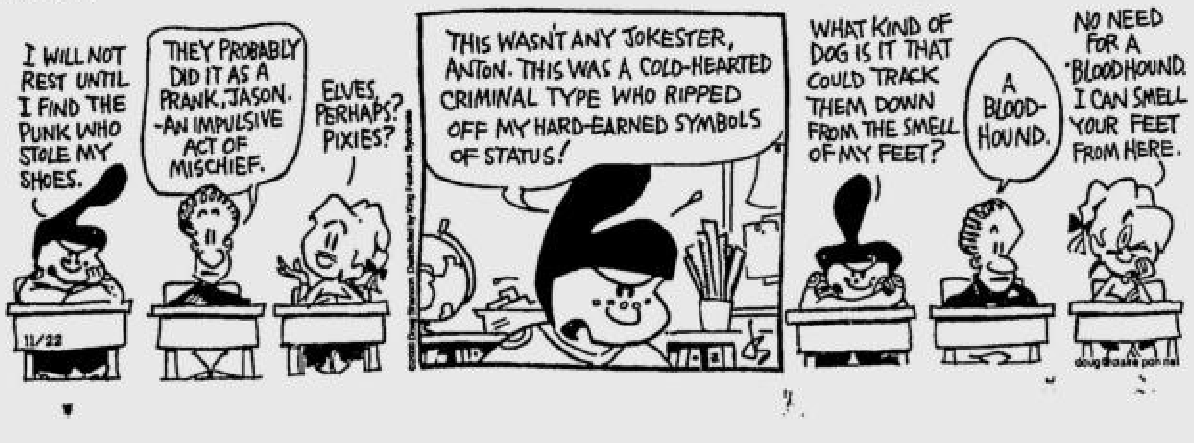
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


LOOK, TRIXIE, IF I USE MY RUBBER STAMP CAREFULLY, I CAN MAKE A REALLY NICE, NEAT PICTURE!
I'M MORE INTO QUANTITY THAN QUALITY!
BROWNE 1-3

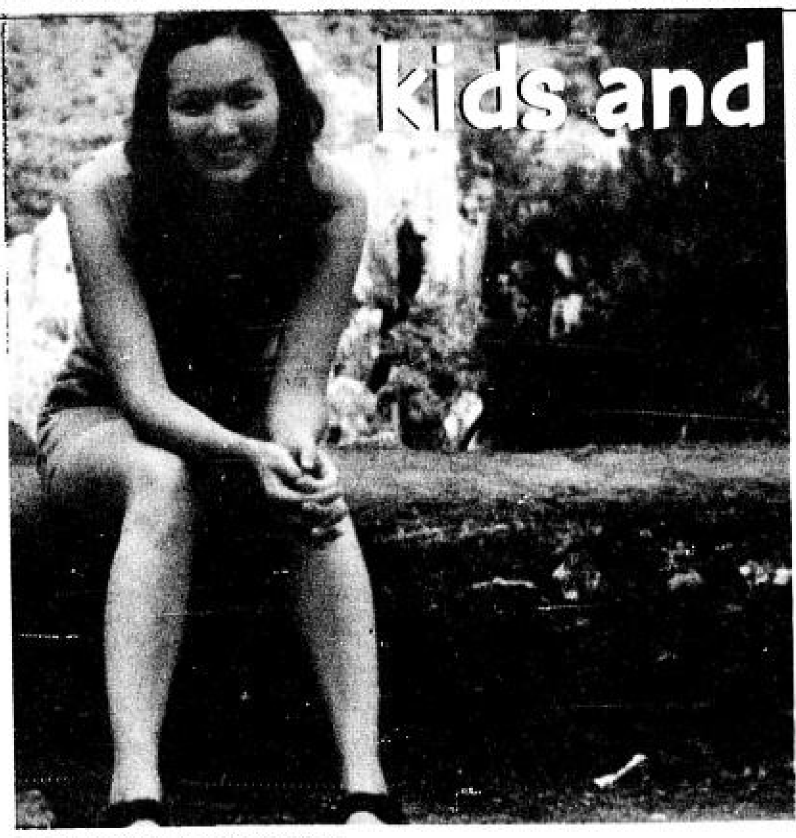
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, MAY EFFECT BA SA 'YO ANG MENTAL POWER NI JAJA?!! AALIS KA NA BA DITO SA BEERHOUSE?!! UUWI KA NA BA?!!
WALANG EFFECT, POP!!! KASI NILALABANAN KO ANG MENTAL POWER NYA!!! HE-HE-HE!!!
MINE-MENTAL POWER KO RIN SIYA!!! TINGNAN NYO LASING NA SI JAJA!!!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE BY DOUG SHANNON


I WILL NOT REST UNTIL I FIND THE PUNK WHO STOLE MY SHOES.
THEY PROBABLY DID IT AS A PRANK, JASON. -AN IMPULSIVE ACT OF MISCHIEF.
ELVES PERHAPS? PIXIES?
THIS WASN'T ANY JOKESTER, ANTON. THIS WAS A COLD-HEARTED CRIMINAL TYPE WHO RIPPED OFF MY HARD-EARNED SYMBOLS OF STATUS!
WHAT KIND OF DOG IS IT THAT COULD TRACK THEM DOWN FROM THE SMELL OF MY FEET?
A BLOODHOUND.
NO NEED FOR A BLOODHOUND. I CAN SMELL YOUR FEET FROM HERE.
11/22

A love for kids and passion for food



PRESCHOOL teacher by day

"I'M 23 years old."

One's jaw literally dropped when Antoinette Begre revealed her age. Fragile-looking and seemingly delicate, the half-Swiss, half-Filipina could easily pass for a 16-year-old mallrat. Well, a mallrat who has an aura of Gwyneth Paltrow, albeit more substantial and definitely fresher.

Initially, she gave off the impression of someone born with a silver spoon. It's easy to picture Antoinette as someone who always has a *yaya* at her beck and call. She looks like someone who has and will always have an easy life, regardless of the circumstances.

She's exactly the kind girls love to "envy" and guys would love to introduce to Mommy or share a romantic dinner with this Valentine's Day.

Dual passion

But mallrat she is not since Antoinette holds two equally important jobs. Antoinette is a pastry chef in the family-owned restaurant, Antonelli's at Makati. Apart from her kitchen duties, she is also in charge of purchasing and research and development of recipes.

Initially, Antoinette was not involved in the restaurant. That's why it was named after her (Antonelli's is the Italian version of her name). Some time after the restaurant's opening, she decided to man the kitchen. "I'm basically self-taught," she shares her secret recipe.

Since she was in fifth grade, Antoinette already showed her passion for cooking by baking cookies for her family and friends. Such love for food must be in the genes since Antoinette's father used to be the chef of La Tasca, Hotel Inter-Continental and Manila Hotel, and has worked in Venezuela and Switzerland.

When asked who her mentors are, she says, "My dad's a chef and my mom's a really good cook. So I basically picked it up from them." She says her mom helps her out every time a question pops up in her head while she's experimenting on a new recipe. Her family and her boyfriend are her chief critics when it comes to her new concoctions.

Just when you think the fragile and dainty looker already has her hands full, Antoinette's other passion is her day job. From 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, Antoinette teaches preschoolers at Esteban Learning Center in Dasmariñas Village, Makati. When asked why she decided to foray into the world of toddlers and preschoolers she says, "I just wanted to. Growing up, it was just me and my brother. I was never really around little kids."

Antoinette's day seems to be full but you can hardly sense any trace of stress or tiredness in her. "Cooking is a talent and with teaching, I love getting all the hugs and kisses from the kids," she enthuses.

Spare time

Her looks have not escaped the eagle eyes of talent scouts and agents. In fact, she has done photo shoots for glossy magazines such as Folio and People's Asia. But preening and posing in front of the camera is not exactly her cup of tea.

PASTRY chef by night

PHOTO BY BETOY JOHSON

"I admire people who do it but for myself, I respect myself so much more that just plump myself in front of the camera. But don't get me wrong, I admire people who do it 'coz it takes a lot of time and effort," she says.

This coming June, Antoinette plans to take up 18 units in education to further her knowledge in preschool teaching and "become a head teacher." Initially, she took up interdisciplinary studies then shifted to human resource management at the College of St. Benilde. She then took up a semester of creative writing at Ateneo de Manila.

Antoinette did not finish her studies for she felt she wanted "to learn what I'm interested in. Not the general subjects." But before you jump into conclusions and assume that Antoinette is one spoiled princess, she explains, "I do believe everyone needs an education. It's just my own personal conviction that if I want to learn something, I'm going to do the research and struggle on my own and experience it in my own time." Luckily, her parents are very supportive of the road she chose to take.

Inner strength

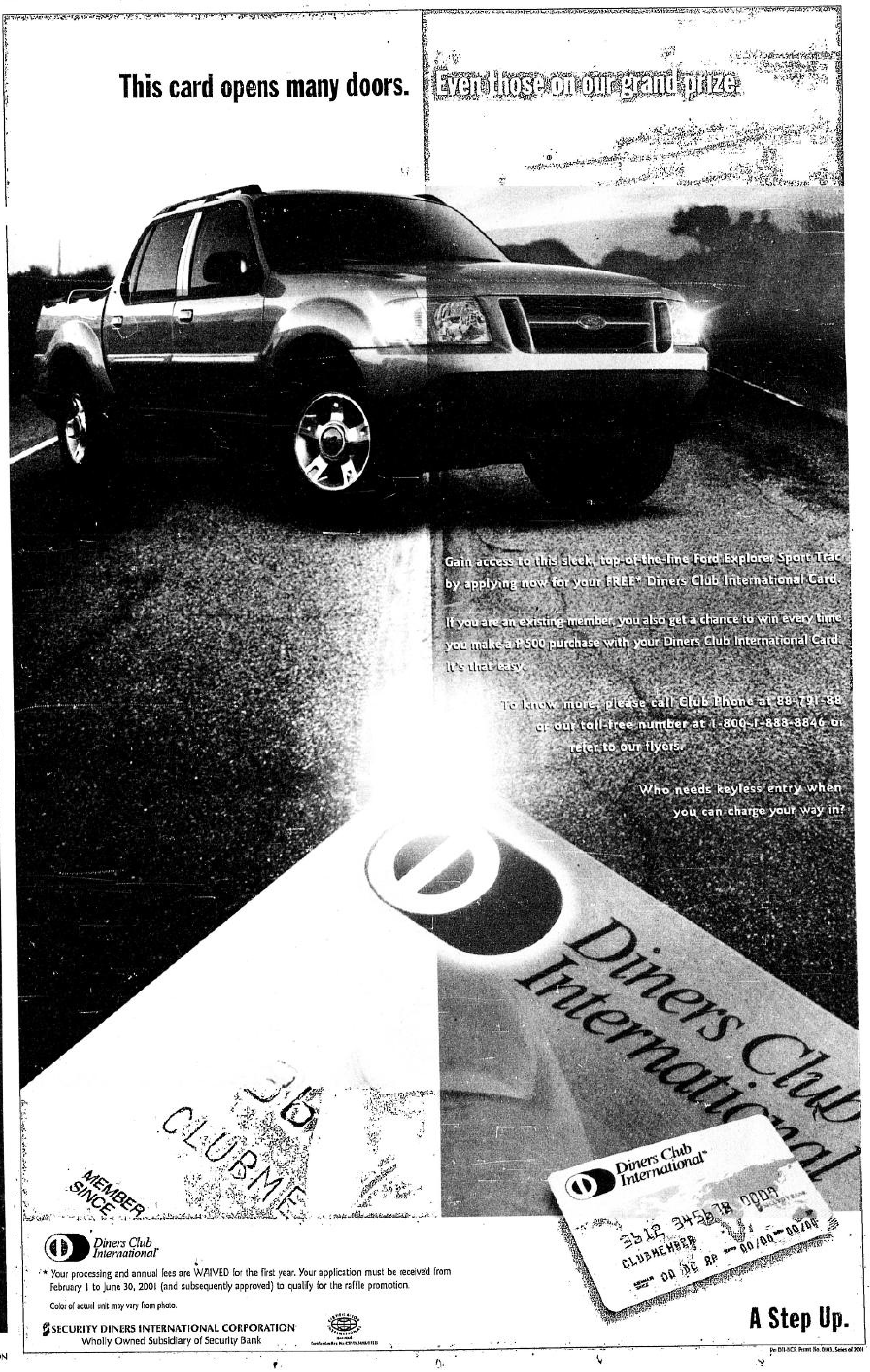
Antoinette plans to write children's books in her spare time. Someday, she loves to own a "quaint specialized pastry shop."

Yes, she is frail and dainty, but she is definitely not without backbone. When you think you have someone like Antoinette down pat, she shares a side which does not exactly jive with her shy and feeble demeanor. Just when you think she would take the easy route, she takes on the high road in the journey of life.

Not bad for a 23-year-old.

Jules Alcantara

E-mail the author at jules26@gurlmail.com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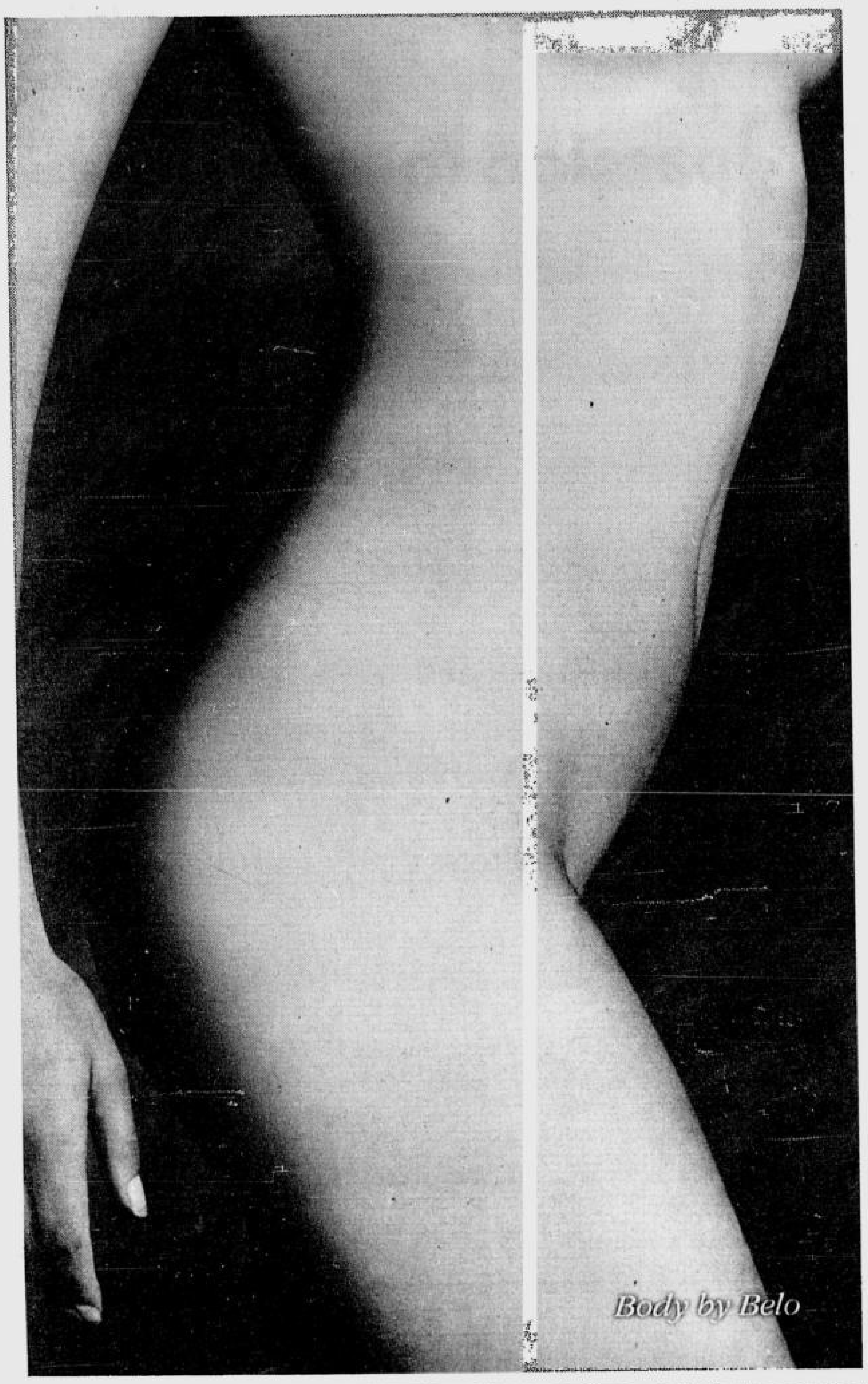

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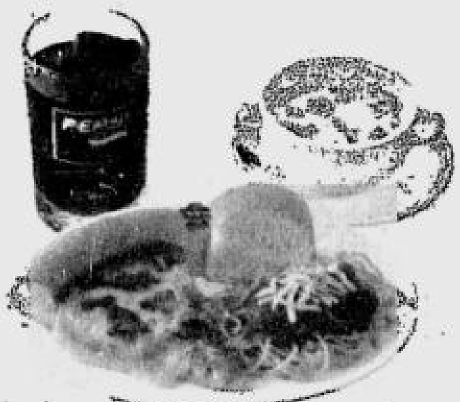
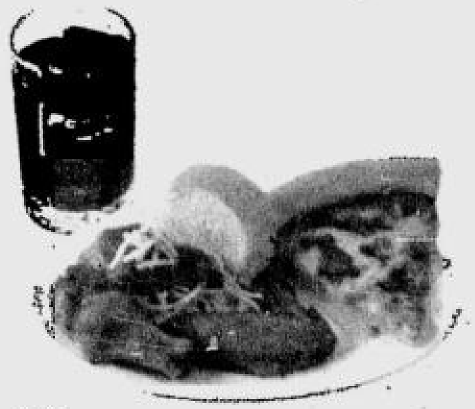

₱59 Meal 1: A slice of Bacon and Cheese Pizza, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, Mushroom Soup, Garlic Bread and a Glass of Pepsi.

₱69 Meal 2: A slice of Bacon and Cheese Pizza, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, French Fries, Mushroom Soup, Garlic Bread and a Glass of Pepsi.


₱79 Meal 3: A slice of Bacon and Cheese Pizza, Spaghetti w/ Meatsauce, 2 Chicken Wings, Garlic Bread and a Glass of Pepsi.

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